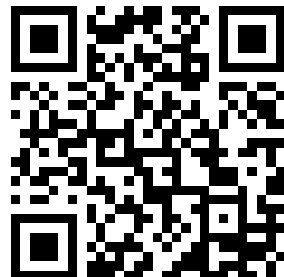


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Haines' Sketches  
of Lake Co.,  
Illinois.

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**HISTORICAL  
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SKETCHES,**

OF  
**LAKE COUNTY**

State of Illinois

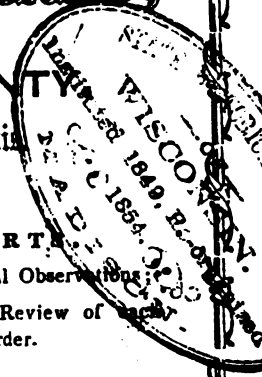
IN TWO PARTS.

The first consisting of General Observations.  
The second, gives a minute Review of each  
Township, in its order.

By **ELIJAH M. HAINES.**

WAUKEGAN, ILL.  
PUBLISHED BY E. G. HOWE,  
Bookseller and Stationer.  
1852.

Geer's Print, Waukegan.





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**Genesee Street,**  
Is the place to get all kinds of  
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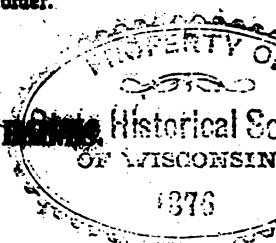
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"Gazette Office," Waukegan.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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About a year since, the writer, in pursuance of an agreement with the Editor of the Waukegan Gazette, commenced preparing the following History or Statistical Account of Lake County, for the columns of the Gazette, at which time it was intended that the matter would be ready for the press in the early part of last winter, but the business affairs of the writer has prevented him from laying it before the public until the present time.

The work will be divided into two parts; first, consisting of general observations; giving a general account of the County from its first settlement up to the present time. Second, a review of each town; giving the names of the early settlers of each, with the date of settlement, together with such incidents of the early settlements as may prove interesting to the reader. Also, such observations in relation to the geography of each town as may be of interest, as well as a brief review of its advantages and resources.

For the purpose of obtaining this information more correctly, the writer has sent to such of his friends in the several towns of the County as he thought might be best prepared

1\*

and most likely to afford him such assistance as he required, and feels himself under great obligation to them for the favor they have conferred, in responding so promptly and fully.

How far the efforts of the writer will be appreciated and rewarded by the Citizens of the County, is yet to be determined. It was suggested to him however, by an old resident, that the history of Lake County was well known to all its Citizens, therefore to write the matter out and lay it before them would be folly in the extreme. Under the circumstances, it could have no merits, and could not therefore meet with favor. But it is not correct that the history of Lake County is well known to every inhabitant. If so, the writer could have saved a great share of his time and expense in preparing the following work.

On the contrary he finds that even some of the oldest inhabitants, who certainly ought to know much of the early history of the County, and upon whom the writer thought he could depend for much valuable information, have now forgotten many important events.

It has been the intention of the writer to lay before the reader a fair and concise account of Lake County; consisting of a plain statement of facts, and having been reared in the County from his early boyhood, and having from an early age been more or less engaged in matters of a public nature, he flatters himself that he is in some degree qualified for such a task.

In the State of Connecticut and in fact in most of the New England States, may be found a full history of every County, swelled in many instances to considerably large volumes, and so minute are some of them as to become a very satisfactory reference, even in family genealogy. In preparing the following

work the writer has adopted as a precedent, in some degree, the plan of the history of Middlesex County, in the State of Connecticut, written by Rev. David D. Field, the father of the distinguished Dudley Field of N. Y., and published by the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1819, which was placed in the hands of the writer, by Dr. P. Dickinson of Hainesville, a Nephew of the Rev. Mr. Field.

In a history of this kind, it has been customary to begin with the Aborigines of the country—to remind the reader of their strong attachment to their native soil, and the resting place of their fathers, and the many “wrongs and injuries” which they have received from the hands of their conquerors—the whites.

But as all this, as well as the Indian character in general, is so well understood by every one, the writer has ventured, after a brief notice, to pass the matter over; trusting that his production may not thereby prove the less interesting to the reader. This portion of the subject, is however, receiving full notice from the able pen of an esteemed friend E. S. Ingalls, Esq., of Antioch, who is now writing a series of articles for the Waukegan Chronicle upon the early history of the County. The thorough acquaintance of Mr. Ingalls with the Indian character, will enable him to do ample justice to this portion of the subject.

The writer would also take this opportunity of acknowledging his indebtedness to Wm. S. Searls, Esq., of Waukegan, for a valuable work, entitled “Statistics of Dane County, Wisconsin,” from which he has drawn many important suggestions, tending to aid him in arranging the following work.

He cannot fail further to acknowledge his indebtedness to I. L. Clarke, Esq., late Prin-



principal of the Waukegan Academy, for the very kind assistance he has so cheerfully afforded him.

The gratitude of the writer is also justly due to A. B. Coates, Esq., Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Amos S. Watterman, Esq., Clerk of the County Court, for their politeness and cheerfulness in affording him such information as he required, as might be of record in their respective offices.

In many places the writer has had occasion to make mention of the names of individuals in connexion with his subjects, and in doing so, it has been his peculiar care to speak correctly; if therefore any names should be found to have been omitted, or any thing, incorrectly stated, he hopes it may be overlooked, and considered as unintentional upon his part.

E. M. H.

HAINESVILLE, Lake County, Ill., }  
August 21st, 1852. }



## E R R A T A .

The commencement of the third paragraph on page 1 should read thus : "*The first settlement of this county, may be said to have been commenced in the year 1834, and was mostly upon the Desplaines River, and at different points upon the East of the Des Plaines.*"

On page 7, seventh line from bottom, for "even," read "over."

On page 10, third line of 3d Resolution, for "longer,"—read "larger."

On page 20, fourth line from top, for "or" read "of."

On page 27, twelfth line from bottom, read "not," for "should."

On page 33, first line of 3d paragraph, for "The Circuit Court," read, "The first Circuit Court."

On page 36, second paragraph, for "of political officers," read "of the political affairs."

On page 43, first paragraph, 6th line, for "lowest," read "longest."

On page 43, second paragraph, 3d line after "three," add "of."

On page 43, third paragraph, seventh line, for "ought to be," read "ought to have been."

On page 45, fifth paragraph, 3d line, for "worth," read "worthy."

On page 51, second paragraph, 6th line, for "their," read "there."

On page 51, " " 7th line, for "their," read "there."

On page 51, " " for "John I. Clarke," read "John T. Clarke."

On page 53, seventh line from top, after "been," add "found."

On page 58, second line from top, for "relations," read "relatives."

On page 60, tenth line from top, for "with," read "into."

On page 62, for "Judge of the Court," read "Judge of the County Court."

On page 74, for "A. T. Miltimore," read "A. F. Miltimore."

On page 64, for "George Proutz," read "George Prouty."

On page 90, for "S. P. Statton," read "S. P. Stratton."

On page 91, fourth paragraph, for "noon," read "noon."

On page 92, for "Chester Ames" read "Chester Williams."

## CHAPTER I

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Lake County lies at the extreme northeast of the State of Illinois, and is bounded on the north by Wisconsin, on the east by Lake Michigan, on the south by Cook, and the west by McHenry County. Its length from the southern boundary to the Stateline on the north,  $23\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Its average breadth is about  $19\frac{1}{2}$  miles, containing an area of about 460 square miles or 294,400 square acres.

This County derives its name from its being situated upon Lake Michigan, as well as from the great number of small lakes contained within its borders; amounting in all to upwards of 40. It was originally a part of McHenry County, which was erected from Cook and La Salle by the Legislature at its Session in 1835 and '36, and was detached therefrom and erected as the County of Lake by an Act of the Legislature, approved March 1st, 1839.

The settlement of this County may be said points upon the east of the Des Plaines river; but there seems to have been but little improvement until the year following when the Indians vacated the country in pursuance of a treaty which had been previously made, with them. That portion of country now known as Lake County, seems even to have been with them a favored spot, and at the present day, in various parts of the County, relics of their wigwams, villages and cornfields are to be found. But at no point, do we find these unmistakable evidences so apparent, as upon the borders of the Pistakee Lakes, lying in the

northwestern portion of the County ; and so strong seems to have been their attachment to this particular locality, that for several succeeding seasons, we find them returning thither to enjoy their sports, and bewail their misfortune.

Among the early settlers of this County were the following pioneers: Ransom Steele, Richard Steele, Capt. Wright, Saml. Brookes, William Cooley, Seth Washburn, William Easton, Matthias Mason, A. S. Wells, John Herrick, H. B. Steele, Tobias Wynkoop, Wm. Lovejoy, Elmsley Sunderlin, Peleg Sunderlin, Nelson Landon, George Kimball, Willard Jones, Phineas Sherman, Arthur Patterson, Benjamin Marks, Leonard Gage, Geo. Gage, and George A. Drury ; most of whom, are at the present day, residents of the County and favorably known to our citizens, for their very generous hospitality in those early days, as well as for their perseverance, integrity and honor.

The extremely high prices of provisions in those days,—a misfortune incident to all new countries,—is not forgotten. Flour was sold during the year 1835 for \$20 per bbl, and other kinds of provisions in proportion. In 1836 the writer was the purchaser of a few bushels of oats at \$2 per bushel.

The land in this part of the State was, at this time, in the possession of the Government, and unsurveyed, and in the absence of any proper title some mutual understanding between the settlers became necessary to protect them in their possessions against trespassers.

The settlers found that the laws of their country afforded them little protection in their new home. The wilderness was before them—they had journeyed beyond the limit of

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. 3

civil government, and now, they realized, perhaps, for the first time in their lives, that governments had their origin in the weakness of individuals, and had for their end, the strength and security of all. They therefore resolved to form and set up a new government, or compact for the purpose of defining their rights and enacting such laws as would tend to their security. Accordingly a meeting of the settlers was called for the purpose of adopting such measures as might be thought expedient to accomplish their ends.

A pamphlet, printed we understand by a gentleman of genius, living at that time near the State line, whose stock of type and material must have been very limited, which we have now before us, contains the deliberations of their meeting. We have thought that some extracts from the proceedings of their first meeting might not be uninteresting, we therefore give the following :—

“At a numerous meeting of the inhabitants on the upper Des Plaines river held pursuant to notice at Independence Grove on Friday Dec. 2d, 1836, Saml. Brooks, Esq. in the chair and George Kimball, Sec’y.—A committee consisting of Nelson Landon, Samuel Brookes and Willard Jones was appointed to present Resolutions and Regulations. The following on being reported were unanimously adopted.

“Whereas the unsurveyed government lands situate between Indian Creek and the north boundary of the State, lying on and in the vicinity of the Des Plaines river have within the last three years become thickly settled, and fresh settlers are daily coming in and seeking a residence and locating in the same neighborhood—many unwilling to encroach on the hitherto respected boundaries of older

settlers. Others with a too manifest intention of occupying land for the sole purpose of speculation, and some who seem desirous of retaining for their exclusive advantage a large proportion of woodland and prairie than appears necessary for a farmer on the largest scales of calculation.

"Many new settlements under similar circumstances have adopted resolutions for the purpose of defining the extent of land which each settler may hold and for protecting others in the quiet possession of their claims and for this purpose have entered into mutual compact and agreement to carry such resolutions into effect.

"It appears to your committee upon reading the notice for convening this meeting that no time should be lost in pursuing such measures as the present situation of the settlement seems to demand, as well for the maintenance and promotion of harmony in the neighborhood, as for the encouragement of respectable and actual settlers among us.

"1st. Resolved, That it is expedient and necessary to adopt measures by which the settlers in this section of the country may be protected from encroachments, and their claims upon lands better defined,—to encourage and protect those who wish to come and reside among us.

"2d. Resolved, That it is expedient to prevent individuals from taking up and holding longer claims on land than themselves and families can cultivate, and that no one individual shall hold more than one section of land:

3d. "Resolved, That it is necessary for the advancement & well being of this settlement, to prevent the holding claims on land solely for the purpose of speculation.

"4th. Resolved, That the country in the

vicinity of the Des Plains river between Indian Creek and the north boundary of this State, be divided into three sections, viz: The first section commencing at Indian Creek, and extending northward to Independence Grove, inclusive. The second section extending from Independence Grove to Mr. Lovejoy's tavern\* inclusive. The third section extending thence northward to the north boundary of the State,

"II. That there be three Commissioners appointed for each section (to serve for one year and until a re-election shall take place,) who shall have full and exclusive power, and whose duty it shall be at the request of any one, to establish and protect each and every settler in his, her or their just and equitable claim or claims on lands, and decide all difficulties concerning the same, and to establish the lines and boundaries thereof.

"III. That the decision of said Commissioners or two of them shall be final, unless within two days an appeal be made by either of the parties to the inhabitants of the section in which the claim may be, in which case it shall be the duty of said Commissioners, or either of them immediately upon notice of such appeal, to convene a meeting of the settlers resident in such section for the purpose of obtaining their decision on the matter in dispute.

"IV. That the inhabitants of each and all the said sections shall be bound at all times to carry into effect the orders or decisions of said Commissioners or any two of them concerning any claims or rights of persons relating to any claim or claims.

"V. That if any person shall neglect or refuse

\* Present site of the O'Plain house.



to assist when required to carry into effect any order or decision of said Commissioners or any two of them, or to carry into effect any final decision after an appeal, he shall be considered inimical to justice and good order and shall be treated accordingly.

"VI. That there shall be a Clerk appointed for one year, (and eligible to re-election,) to keep a book to register the proceedings of this meeting, and the claims of each claimant within the three sections which shall be kept for the inspection of any person at all times.

"VII. That it shall be the duty of each claimant to procure a certificate of the Commissioners, or any two of them, residing in the section, where the said claim may be, and file the same with the Clerk for registration, then and there only shall his, her or their claim be established.

"VIII. That the said Commissioners or any two of them, may call a meeting of the settlers at any time they may see fit.

"IX. That the said Commissioners be at liberty to demand and receive for their services for establishing each claim, including the corner posts not less than two and not more than five dollars.

"X. That every one wishing to avail himself of the benefit of the foregoing Resolutions and Regulations shall subscribe his name to the same, and omitting to do so shall derive no advantages resulting from the provisions hereof.

"XI. Resolved, That all who hold claims at the present time shall register them within two months, and that all new comers shall register within three months after making their claims."

These regulations were altered and amended at subsequent meetings as circumstances

seemed to demand. Courts of justice were at length established in the midst of the settlers, and they began, in some degree, to feel the controlling and beneficial influence of the "higher" or older law to which the following among other articles was added in due time.

"That every member of this association does hereby bind himself to contribute his due proportionate share of the expenses incurred in defending or prosecuting all suits at law or equity in which any member may be engaged, in consequence of obeying or carrying into effect the decisions or orders of the Commissioners according to the 4th regulation of the 2d Dec., 1836."

These meetings were, after a time, appointed and held on the 4th of July, so as to afford the settlers a better opportunity to observe the national holiday. They were regularly kept up and their enactments in force as far as could be, until the legislature passed a law, protecting every man in his possession or claim, in an amount of land not exceeding 320 acres of unsurveyed land, and not exceeding 160 where the lands had been surveyed, which law is still in force.

The "*modus operandi*" under the foregoing rules may be more particularly gathered from a case we will cite, which arose in the third section, in the vicinity of Mill Creek. It seems that an individual who had just arrived with his family from the eastern country, and not understanding fully the 'rules and regulations' of the compact, settled himself upon the first spot of ground which suited his fancy, but which had previously been registered agreeable to the laws of the settlers, but was unoccupied at the time by the claimant.

Whereupon the Commissioners of the compact were notified of the grievance by whose

orders messengers were dispatched to summon the inhabitants to meet upon the *locus in quo* on a given day, to hear and determine the matter in dispute.

A large number of the settlers accordingly met upon the day appointed when a moderator was chosen, and the meeting organized for business.

One of their number was selected to act as counsel, or advocate, for the prosecution; while the intruder presented a very intelligent and gentlemanly appearing individual to urge his defence.

The testimony upon the part of each was then heard, and after a spirited discussion, the matter was submitted to the meeting for their decision, which was that the intruder be first kindly requested to leave the premises, upon failure of which he was to be ejected therefrom without further ceremony. Refusing to comply with this request the order was given to execute the writ of possession.

The meeting then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the squatters, assumed the reins of justice, proceeded to the defendant's habitation, dispersed his family and sequestered his goods, when the order went up and the house went down.

Nothing was now left for the unfortunate occupant, but to gather up his effects and leave the neighborhood.

Thus rid of an unwelcome visitant, the jealous neighbors returned to their homes in quiet.

Scenes like the above were of almost weekly occurrence and in but a few cases did they fail of protecting the original claimants against intruders.

Various have been the opinions and expressions as to these compacts of the early

settlers. They were now perhaps as just as the general compact, under whose protection we are all pleased to find ourselves and to whose mandates we should always yield a very cheerful compliance. But it is probably true that the powers which they assumed as a compact, were often abused and perverted.

The settlers as a body, in deciding upon questions between claimants, often did so without due deliberation, and the consequences were in many instances of a serious nature, which perhaps in most instances might have been avoided by more calm and impartial consideration.

## CHAPTER II.

The matter of politics, in due time, engaged the attention of the early settlers. The Act of the Legislature, erecting the County of McHenry, provided for an election of County officers on the 5th of June, 1837, which election was ordered to be held at the house of Hiram Kennicott, Esq., which was near the present site of the flouring mills on the Des Plaines, near Half Day, which election came off with a degree of strife and anxiety in proportion to the population of the County, at that date; there being but one place of voting for the County; the candidates and others feeling an interest in the result, had an excellent opportunity of meeting their opponents upon fair and open grounds.

The following persons were elected as officers for the new County: Henry B. Steele, Sheriff; Michael McGuire, Coroner; Seth Washburn, Recorder, and Matthias Mason, Charles H. Bartlett and Solomon Norton, County Commissioners. The number of votes polled at this election, for the entire County of McHenry, was 138.

The newly elected officers were immediately qualified and entered upon the duties of their respective offices. The County Seat of the new County having been previously located at the present site of McHenry village. The County Commissioners elect, immediately repaired thither and opened Court, and as their first official act, appointed Hamilton Dennison as Clerk of that Court, which office, at that time, was not elective.

On the first Monday in August following came the general election, when the democratic party put in nomination the following ticket: Arthur Patterson for Probate J. P.; Lewis G. Schenck, for Treasurer; Patrick Ballingall for Clerk of County Commissioners Court.

The office of Commissioners Clerk having become at this election an elective office. This ticket succeeded at the election, with the exception of the nominee for Clerk. Mr. Dennison who was then holding the office by appointment, was the opposing candidate and succeeded over Mr. Ballingall, who by the way was not yet a resident of the County, but intended to become so, had the election resulted in his favor. In those days, but few enquiries were made, in reference to candidates for office; whatever seemed to be the opinion and desire of a few, who assumed the lead in such matters, was generally very readily concurred in by the many.

Mr. Dennison continued in office but a short time, when he resigned his station, and at a special election, immediately thereafter, Joseph Wood, Esq. was elected without opposition, to fill the vacancy.

Many designing individuals, as is the case in all new countries, were making their appearance among the early settlers at this time,

for the purpose of political preferment, and while many of them flourished for a season, their "blushing honors" have withered before the coming of autumn.

The first Circuit Court held in McHenry County, was held at McHenry in the spring of 1838, when a Docket of 62 cases was made up for adjudication. The Hon. John Piersons presiding as Judge; Alonzo Huntington was present as State Attorney; H. B. Steele, Sheriff, and A. B. Wynkoop, Clerk. The Court room was in the upper story of a log house, occupied as a tavern, which stood where now stands the splendid and commodious Hotel of Mr. Baldwin.

The novel scenes of this occasion, will long be remembered by those who participated, and are probably well understood by many who had not that opportunity.

The limited accommodations of the young village of McHenry, which consisted at this time, of three or four log houses and a barn, rendered it necessary to occupy the Court room at night as a sleeping apartment, upon each return of which, the floor was found covered with various specimens of ingenuity, in the shape of beds, composed of buffaloes, mats and various other descriptions of bedding, and many even then, could not be accommodated with a place to recline upon, and were compelled to while away the "dark hours" to the best advantage, by engaging in various kinds of amusements,—“telling yarns” and cracking jokes—and when the reader is informed that Col. J. M. Strode, so well known to the pioneers of the north west, was among the number on this occasion, he may well calculate, that the hours passed merrily away. No Member of the Bar in northern Illinois, has probably had equal experience in pioneer

Courts, with our esteemed friend, the Colonel; and his remarkable talent for cracking jokes, and telling a good story, no doubt rendered him doubly welcome on this occasion.

So eager were men for office or some kind of public calling, in those days, that many were known even to solicit the favor of being drawn as jurors, and many others who had chanced to be drawn as such, without solicitation upon their part, seemed to be elated in the highest degree at their good fortune, for an opportunity to appear among their fellows, as among the chosen few.

As we have before intimated, office seeking among the early settlers, was the "order of the day;" but many of the bright and shining lights of those days have since fallen into the darkest obscurity, while among them, too, were men of the highest order of talent.

Matters continued rather quietly until the fall of 1838, when the County of McHenry was thought to be quite thickly settled, and for convenience of the inhabitants in transacting County business, it was thought advisable by many that the County should be divided; accordingly a petition was drawn up and circulated for the purpose of affecting this object. The following is a copy of this petition, which is sufficiently explicit within itself to supersede the necessity of comment.

"To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Illinois:"

"Your memorialists, the inhabitants of the County of McHenry, would respectfully represent, that after due consideration and the most anxious and careful investigation of facts and circumstances connected with said County, they have come to the conclusion, that in order to procure the greatest amount

of comfort, convenience and prosperity, it is necessary and expedient that the said County be divided making the centre of Fox river the dividing line from north to south; and all that portion of County lying east of Fox river be and form a new County, to be called Lake County, and that portion west of Fox river, containing ranges five, six, seven and eight, east of the third principal meridian, be and continue to form the county of McHenry.

"The greater proportion of the inhabitants of said County as formed and organized by the Acts of 1836 and 1837, is composed within the limits of ranges five, (5,) six, (6,) seven, (7,) ten, (10,) eleven (11) and twelve, (12,) east of the third principal meridian, being the extremes of the vast territory of which our County is now formed, which is populated with enterprising and intelligent citizens, who at the present time number at least four thousand souls—with a list, as by the Tax Roll of the year 1838, of eight hundred and seventy five tax paying citizens.

"And we would further represent, that the County of McHenry is nearly fifty miles in length, and is twenty four miles from north to south, and the seat of justice of the County, as located, being immediately on the west bank of Fox river. We would (in case your Honorable body grant us a division,) ask that a review be made to re-locate the seat of justice of McHenry County, and that Commissioners be appointed therefor. Also that your Honorable body will appoint Commissioners to locate the seat of justice for the County of Lake; and as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray."

This petition received the signature of a large majority of the legal voters of McHenry County, and was accordingly presented to the



Legislature at its Session of 1838 and '39 : upon which the County of Lake was created, and the following fixed as the boundaries for the new County. "All that portion of McHenry County east of a range or sectional line, not less than three miles, nor more than four miles east of the present County seat [McHenry Village,] of McHenry County, shall constitute a new County to be called the County of Lake."

About this time an attempt was also made to create a new County, to be called the County of *Michigan*, out of a portion of Cook, and a part of that portion of McHenry, lying on the east of Fox river, so as to bring the County seat at Wheeling,\* which as a matter of course, if accomplished, would have a tendency to defeat the plan of creating the County of Lake; and thereby render it certain of continuing the County seat of McHenry County at McHenry Village, which attempt however proved unsuccessful, and the chagrin of the *Michigan* County "boys" at their defeat, we understand, has scarcely subsided to the present day.

It will be recollected that Doctor Richard Murphy, so long and favorably known to most of our citizens, was at this time a member of the Legislature from the Cook District, whose integrity and regard for the interest of his constituents, we believe was never doubted during the three terms for which he served; yet it is claimed, we understand, by a gentleman of McHenry, who has for several years enjoyed considerable fame in the world, and who had the honor at this time, of holding the station of outside, or "lobby" member, that he succeeded in exerting a kind of influence over the Doctor, by which he was enabled to fix the western boundary of Lake County where it now is, instead of making

Fox river the line, which it more properly should have been, which seems also to have been the prayer of the petition, upon which the action was predicated; but as this matter transpired long before the writer hereof had arrived at years of maturity, he does not claim to speak advisedly upon the subject; but from his subsequent personal acquaintance with Dr. Murphy, it affords him the greatest pleasure to speak of his talents and integrity as well as of his social qualities, in the highest and warmest terms.

By the Act creating the new County of Lake, Edward E. Hunter and William Brown of Cook County and Col. E. C. Berry of Fayette County, were appointed Commissioners to locate the seat of justice. Brown and Hunter, we understand, were appointed upon the suggestion of many of the petitioners, and Col. Berry from his thorough acquaintance with the geography of the County, having a short time previous been engaged in surveying the Government lands therein, under the direction of the Surveyor General.

The said Commissioners, or a majority of them, were required to meet at the house of Henry B. Steele at Independence Grove, (now Libertyville,) on the first Monday in May, 1839, or as soon thereafter as might be convenient, and after being duly sworn by some Justice of the Peace, faithfully to perform the duties required of them as such Commissioners, to proceed to locate the seat of justice for the new County; having due regard to the geographical situation, the settlements and convenience of the population at that period, as well as thereafter. All the land in the County being at that time in the hands of the Government. The claimants of land upon which the County seat might be located, were

required to relinquish their claim to a tract not less than twenty acres, for the use and benefit of the County, upon which to erect the public buildings; and it was made the duty of the County Commissioners to obtain a title from the General Government of said lot of land, as soon as the same could be accomplished; and were required to appropriate from the funds of the County, so much as would be necessary for that purpose.

The legal voters within the territory of the new County were required to meet at the several places of holding the last general election, under the organization of McHenry County, on the first Monday in August, 1839, for the purpose of choosing County officers. The returns of said election were to be made by the judges and clerks thereof, to the County Commissioner's Court of McHenry County, according to the law in other cases, and the clerk of said Court was required to give certificates of election to the officers elect of the new County.

The new County of Lake, was by this Act, attached to the seventh judicial circuit, in which it has remained to the present time.

That portion of McHenry County which was to form the County of Lake, if we remember correctly, was divided, at the time of the aforesaid election, into only four precincts, or election districts; which at the present time numbers fifteen. The names affixed to them were Abingdon, Indian Creek, Oak and Lake; all of which names have now become extinct, except Abingdon, the remains of which is summed up in a post office now located at Saugatuck. [The name of Abingdon has been changed to "Hartford" Post Office, at a recent date.]

Thus much for the initiatory or preparatory

steps, to the erection and organization of the present flourishing County of Lake. The half of course "has not been told," yet probably sufficient to enable the reader to form his own ideas and draw his own conclusions.

There are many things of a private nature, which transpired about this period, which might, it is true, prove interesting to some, but would of course give offence to others. And we hold it to be true, that there is no man, who has figured in public life to any extent, either in high places or low, but that there are portions of his life, which upon his part, would be most gladly forgotten, while upon the the other hand, their remembrance operates as a sweet morsel, to the tantalizing spirit of his cotemporaries.

#### CHAPTER III.

About the first of June 1839, two of the Commissioners for locating the County seat, Hunter and Brown, met at Libertyville, and having taken the oath of office, entered upon their duties, which were performed after a very brief inquiry into the wishes of the people, by locating the County seat at Independence Grove, to which, with the concurrence of the inhabitants at that place, they applied the name of *Burlington*, which, as we have before stated, originally bore the name of Vardin's Grove, but was subsequently changed to Independence Grove, when in the winter of 1836 and '37 a post office was established there, to which was applied the name of *Libertyville*.

Whilst many have frequently and loudly condemned the conclusions of the Commissioners in locating the seat of justice as they did, and have gone so far as to prefer many serious charges against them. We are inclined

to the opinion, that most men, even of the best perception and thorough acquaintance with the western country, would at that time, have arrived at the same conclusion.

It was supposed that the road from Chicago to Milwaukee, by the way of Libertyville, could never be superseded, but on the contrary must continue to increase in importance, until it would become one of the greatest thoroughfares in the western country. It was therefore considered that the interest of the inhabitants of the County, required the location of the seat of justice upon this thoroughfare; in view of which, Libertyville was considered to be unquestionably the most favorable point. Upon the east side of the Des Plaines, it was, as yet, but thinly settled, and the prospects for a dense population in that portion of the County seemed not at this period to be very flattering.

A small beginning had been made at Little Fort, (now Waukegan,) where a very good sized storehouse had been erected by one Thomas Jenkins, which building is still standing upon the bank of the river, near Dickinson's ware house, in which Mr. Jenkins had placed a very good stock of goods for the purpose of trading; and was also endeavoring to do something in the line of forwarding; while with the assistance of two or three enterprising individuals in the vicinity, a very favorable impression was being created; but at length a controversy arose between the claimants, as to the occupancy of the land, when business became pretty much entirely suspended.

What few inhabitants were settled in the vicinity of Little Fort were anxious as might well be supposed, that the County seat should be located at that place, but being conscious

of their minority, and considering, no doubt, prudence to be the better part of valor, they at that time said but little upon the subject. Their own interests, arising from their particular location, through a good degree of hope, prompted them we believe, that a day of success yet awaited them, notwithstanding the preliminary decisions might be against them.

The time for electing officers for the new County, was at length near at hand, party politics, as well as local interest, had already created no small degree of feeling throughout the County. Such of the inhabitants as entertained a bright hope as to the future prospects of Little Fort, felt no small degree of interest in the result of the approaching election as might well be expected.

Their plan was to secure, if possible, the election of such County officers as were favorable to the re-location of the County seat; especially that of County Commissioners, whose duty it would be, to take charge of, and conduct the affairs of the County. If, therefore, such Commissioners should be elected, as were favorable to having the County seat remain where it had been already located, they of course would at once proceed to the permanent erection of the County buildings, and adopt all such measures as would have a tendency towards settling the question of removal in the minds of the people henceforth. While on the other hand, if such Commissioners be elected as were favorable to the removal of the County seat as desired, quite a different course of proceeding would be adopted. This plan, however, seems not to have been very generally understood throughout the County, in consequence of which, the friends of Little Fort succeeded

in some degree, in accomplishing their designs, while they must have been altogether defeated, had their plans have been well understood, as they were much in the minority.

An attempt was made by a designing few, to combine all parties through a Mass Meeting, and bring out a sort of union ticket, to which it was understood, there should be no opposition. This Meeting convened at the barn of Dr. J. H. Foster at Independence Grove: this being at that early day, the most commodious building that the town, or perhaps the whole County afforded. It was soon ascertained after the convening of the Meeting, that the conflicting interests and opinions of the persons composing the body, would not allow of accomplishing the object for which they had assembled, and therefore, after a season of wrangling and discord, the Meeting broke up in confusion, without maturing anything, and as the subsequent political history of Lake County would show, without profiting in the least by that days experience. But after the lapse of a few weeks, the two political parties took issue upon their respective nominations, and the election came off with the following result:

*Sheriff*—Henry B. Steele.  
*County Commissioners*—Charles H. Barleta,  
*Nelson Landon* and *Jared Gage*.  
*Treasurer*—Matthias Mason.  
*School Commissioner*—Lewis G. Schenck.  
*Surveyor*—John A. Mills.  
*Probate Justice*—Arthur Patterson.  
*Coroner*—Starr Titus.  
*Clerk of County Commissioners Court*—*Lansing B. Nickols*.

Those in *italics* were known as Little Fort men. Two Justices of the Peace, and two

Constables were also elected at the same time, in each Precinct.

The number of votes cast at this election was 375.

The officers elect were immediately qualified as required by law, and entered upon the duties of their offices.

A special term of the County Commissioners Court was immediately called at the County seat, at which term the County was divided into eight election districts, or precincts, as they were more properly termed in law, viz : Lake, Oak, Middlesex, Burlington, Mill Creek, Bristol, Fort Hill and Zurich.

The matter of erecting the County buildings was soon agitated to some extent ; and as a matter of course the friends of Independence Grove, were anxious that this thing should be accomplished as soon as possible, in order to permanently settle the question of the location of the County seat, and as the "Grove folks" seemed to have the majority in the County Commissioners Court : the friends of Little Fort found it necessary to exert their ingenuity at this time, to the extent of their ability. Accordingly, it was suggested by Mr. Landon, one of the Board of Commissioners, and urged by him, that the finances of the new County, would but allow of incurring the expense necessary for putting up of such buildings as the County required. It was therefore suggested by him, at the instance of his friends that perhaps some person could be found, who would build such a building as the immediate necessity of the public required, which could be rented until the funds of the County would warrant the building of something more permanent.

Accordingly an arrangement of this kind was entered into between the Commissioners



on the part of the County, and Burleigh Hunt of Little Fort, who soon completed a very commodious building; the upper story of which was fitted up for a Courtroom and Offices, while the lower story was arranged and rented for a store and dwelling purposes. This building was occupied by the County for public purposes, as long as the County seat was at Libertyville.

The Circuit Court held in and for the County of Lake, was held at Libertyville, in April 1840. The Hon. John Piersons presiding. Alonzo Huntington was present as States Attorney; A. B. Wynkoop, Clerk, and H. B. Steele, Sheriff. Of the Members of the Bar who were present, we remember the following: Horace Butler, Nathan Allen, W. W. Kellogg, Charles McClure, Grant Goodrich, J. Butterfield, J. L. Loop and J. M. Strode. The following persons were summoned as Grand and Petit Jurors at this Term.

#### GRAND JURORS.

Philip Blanchard,	Laomi Pearson,
Richard D. Hickox,	Samuel Burlingham,
Richard Archer,	Elmsly Sunderlin,
Rufus Soules,	George Thomson,
David Wait,	Hiram Clark,
Jonathan Rice,	Alexander Lussel,
Leonard Loomis,	Zabina Ford,
John Robinson,	John Olmsby,
Abraham Vandewacker,	Lathrop Farnham,
W. B. Wattles,	George A. Drury,
David Rich,	Moses Sutton,
Oliver Booth.	

#### PETIT JURORS.

Elbert Howard,	John Murray,
Andrew Luce,	Job W. Tripp,
Leonard Spaulding,	Milton Shields,
Godfrey Dwelly,	Lewis Beecher,

Morris Robinson,	William Ladd,
Daniel Hubbard,	Ransom Steele,
Levi Whitney,	Caleb Davidson,
William Briggs,	Malachi T. White,
Charles S. Cary,	Hezekiah Bryant,
Joshua Leach,	Nathaniel King,
Hiram Butrick,	Solomon Norton,
George Gage,	A. S. Wells.

No cases of great importance were brought before the Court at this Term. The Docket consisted mostly of cases arising between claimants of Government lands, such as forcible entry and detainer; and many poor fellows, who were so unfortunate as to have their names entered as litigants at this Term of the Court, proved so very unfortunate as to have them stereotyped there, for many years thereafter. Not perhaps so much from their own voluntary choice, but rather through an inadvertence arising from a mistaken notion of the means of their own happiness, and the peace and harmony of the society in which they lived.

For instance, the Docket would run somewhat in this way, "No. 1. S——. *vs.* K——. *Forcible Entry and Detainer*, are you ready in that case Mr. B——." "No sir, your Honor; one of our witnesses, the son of the Plaintiff, is unavoidably absent, he will probably return by to-morrow, when we will be prepared to take up the case." "Very well, sir. No. 2, K——. *vs.* S——. *Trespass on the case—SLANDER*, are you ready in that case, Mr. M——." "We are not—quite—your Honor; a plea of justification by the Defendant has taken us rather by surprise. We would therefore crave the indulgence of the Court until we can investigate the matter a little farther before we proceed." "Very well sir, let us proceed in

No. 3. S—, vs: K—, and K—. *Tres pass.—Call a jury.*"

The new County being now fully organized, matters began to assume a more settled aspect. When at the June Term of the County Commissioners Court, Capt. Morris Robinson was appointed by the Court to take the census of the County by authority of the State, commencing and enumerating the inhabitants resident on the first of September of that year. The census was also taken in the same year by Dr. Richard Murphy, by authority of the United States, commencing on the first of June,

Showing a population as enumerated	
by State authority of	2,905
Do. United States authority of	2,634
Showing an increase in 3 months of	271

The mission of Capt. Robinson seems however, to have been mostly that of ascertaining the minds of the people of the County, upon the subject of removing the County seat from Libertyville to Little Fort, and exhorting them to favor the project; when at his instance, petitions addressed to the General Assembly, praying for such removal were put in circulation in every portion of the County where the question was likely to meet with the least favor, which petitions seem to have been very numerous signed.

At the August election for County officers for this year, L. B. Nichols was elected to the office of Sheriff; Thomas H. Payne, County Commissioner, and Joseph Wood, Coroner.

In November following came the great Presidential contest, long to be remembered, between Harrison and Van Buren. The number of votes polled in the County at this election was 548, giving a majority of 14 votes for Harrison.

The Legislature having convened upon the first of December, Capt. Robinson was selected by the friends of Little Fort, to attend its Session, for the purpose of presenting the petitions for the removal of the County seat, and using his exertions in behalf of the prayer of the petitioners, which resulted in the passage of an Act, submitting the question of removal to the people of the County on the 5th of April, 1841; at which election there were 744 votes cast, showing a majority of 188 in favor of Little Fort, which result, as might well be expected, was a source of great rejoicing on the part of the friends of Little Fort, and of deep mortification and regret on the part of the friends of Libertyville. They had all along in their sanguinary moments looked upon the question as settled. The location of the County seat at Libertyville, had in their estimation greatly enhanced the value of their property, and their arrangements for the future were all in reference to its permanent location at that point, hence the very reasonable cause of their disappointment.

The County seat was therefore, in conformity to the expression of the people, on the 13th day of April re-located, and permanently established at Little Fort on the southeast quarter of section twenty-one (21.)

By an Act of Congress, the County would be entitled to 160 acres of land by pre-emption, at the place where the County seat should be located. That is to say, the land upon which the County seat of any County should become located, it being Government land, the County should have the right by pre-emption to enter 160 acres of the same at any time, at the proper land office, by paying \$1.25 per acre. Accordingly such of the inhabitants of Little Fort as had any

claims upon the southeast quarter of section twenty-one (21), very generously released them in favor of the County, but now for their generosity was remembered by the County, we shall leave it for the individuals themselves to say.

The land being so released, was on or about the 20th day of April, 1841, purchased at the land office at Chicago by the County Commissioners, Charles H. Bartlett, Nelson Landon and Thomas H. Payne, for the County of Lake, it being the first transfer of land in fee simple in the County.

The said quarter section of land was then by order of the County Commissioners subdivided into lots and blocks by the County Surveyor, John A. Mills, with the assistance of his Deputy, George Gage; after which a sale of the lots was ordered, sufficient to meet the expenses which had been incurred in perfecting the title to the land, &c., which sale took place on the 26th day of May, 1841. The terms of which was, one fourth of the amount of the purchase money in advance, and the balance in three equal instalments, in 6, 12 and 18 months.

This sale was not only well attended by the people of the County, but there seemed to be present, a great number of strangers from abroad, who had come for the purpose of buying property and locating themselves in business. The fame of Little Fort had already spread over a wide portion of country, while its favorable and delightful location in nature seemed to answer the expectation of all.

A very good anecdote is told in connexion with this sale, at the expense of a worthy friend of ours, who by the way is extremely fond of cracking a good joke himself, in consequence of which we feel assured that he

will pardon us for the liberty we have taken in laying the matter before the reader.

Our friend had opened a house of entertainment in town, and amongst other drinks, kept constantly on hand, an excellent article of small-beer, of his own manufacture.

He had, it seems, placed his mind much upon purchasing certain lots, which were to be offered for sale among the others, and in order that he might make sure of them, and that at a reasonable rate, he was endeavoring to obtain the favor of the County Commissioners; when his sagacity led him to the plan of dealing out to them most bountifully of his excellent beer. The sale was at length about to a close and our friend had succeeded to his entire satisfaction in purchasing his lots, but at the same time, to his mortification, the result of his hospitality to the County Commissioners was not so salutary as he had anticipated, in consequence of which he could not consider himself under the least obligation to them for his good fortune, but on the contrary could not but look upon them as ungrateful in the extreme, after having availed themselves so freely of his generosity not to lend him that assistance, which, having it in their power, he considered they were in duty bound to afford him. He accordingly placed himself in such a position as would command the attention of the crowd, and especially that of the County Commissioners, and cried out with a full voice, "Gentlemen, these County Commissioners have treated me as badly as they could, but after all that, I have got all that I wanted, and *more* than I expected, and now, I shall stop the beer." This joke, however, is the best enjoyed by those who are best acquainted with the parties and the circumstances. It affords us pleasure however, to

34      GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

state, that the purchases of our friend of that day, proved for him a subsequent comfortable fortune; but as to how the beer injunction was received by the Commissioners we were never informed.

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CHAPTER IV.

The removal of the County seat had already created in the County two parties; the "Little Fort" party, and the "Grove" party; each of which seemed determined to "do battle" to the end, for the cause in which they had enlisted. A severe animosity soon arose between the two parties, which gave rise to much of personal animadversion, to be remembered by our older citizens.

At the Session of the Legislature of '40 and '41, a Bill was introduced to reorganize the Judiciary of the State. The Bill provided for abolishing the office of Circuit Judge in the several Circuits throughout the State, and for decreasing the number of Supreme Judges to nine, and require them all to do Circuit duty, in addition to their duties as Supreme Judges. This Bill we believe received the support of Dr. Murphy, our member in the Legislature at that time, whose great influence in that body, at that time, it is thought, contributed much to the success of the Bill, which before the close of the Session became a law. The Hon. Theo. W. Smith, who was at that time, and had been for many years prior, upon the Supreme Bench, was most bitterly opposed to the provisions of the Bill, and in consequence, it is said, became a most bitter personal enemy to Dr. Murphy.

The 7th Circuit being assigned to Judge Smith, he appointed Isaac R. Gavit, Esq., Ex-Sheriff of Cook County, as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Lake County, which appointment

It was soon understood, was greatly in opposition to the feelings of Dr. Murphy, whose political standing, it seemed to be the mission of Mr. Gavin, if possible to destroy.

Here, then, was another cause which contributed much to the discordant state of political officers of the County at that time.

Mr. Gavin having at once identified himself with the "Grove" party, while Dr. Murphy was a strong advocate for the interests of "Little Fort."

It was at length insisted, by some, that the law, under which the County seat had been removed, was defective, and that Libertyville was yet properly the County seat of the County, and in fact, the Recorder even took upon himself, the responsibility of removing his office back to Libertyville, where he continued to hold it for several months. But at the Session of the Legislature of '42 and '43, an Act was passed, through the influence of Dr. Murphy, declaring that the County seat should be thereafter considered as permanently located at Little Fort, on the site selected by the County Commissioners. This was considered as a permanent settlement of this perplexing question.

It was the policy of the friends of Little Fort to proceed with the erection of the County buildings as speedily as possible, so as to place the permanent location of the County seat beyond any further question, while on the contrary it seemed to be the policy of the "Grove" party to retard the work as much as possible.

The first County Commissioners Court held at Little Fort, for the purposes of general business, was opened on the day of May, 1841, at which Term Lewis G. Scheuck, Esq. resigned his office as School Commissioner.



Horatio N. Heald, Esq., now Treasurer of Cook County, was appointed in his stead, which appointment from the known integrity of Mr. Heald, was remarkably well received.

Of the three individuals composing the County Commissioners Court, at this time two of them, Messrs. Landon and Payne, were of the "Little Fort" party, and one, Mr. Bartlett, was of the "Grove" faction, and as Mr. Landon's term of office was soon to expire, the "Grove" party entertained a bright hope of electing in his stead one of their own choice, and thus greatly strengthen their position.

No action was taken, meanwhile in relation to the County buildings.

The election of County officers was at hand. The friends of Little Fort put in nomination the following ticket, to wit :

For County Commissioner—Nelson Landon.  
For School do. Horatio N. Heald.  
For County Treasurer—D. S. Dewey.

The adverse party put in nomination the following ticket :

For County Commissioner—Samuel Jackson.  
For School do. Milton Bacon.

The election came off on the 2nd day of August, and resulted in the success of the first named candidates by a very large majority. The fidelity and integrity of Mr. Landon in connexion with the interest of Little Fort, rendered him exceedingly popular with his party.

As soon as the result of the election was known, Mr. Landon called a Special Session of the County Commissioners Court which convened on the 16th day of August.

At this Term, among other actions of the Court, Henry B. Steele, was removed from the

office of Clerk, and Arthur Patterson, Esq. appointed in his stead. Mr. Steele it seems, had not given his personal attention to the duties of his office, and had continued his residence at Libertyville, having appointed A. B. Wynkoop as his deputy, who had taken the exclusive charge of the duties of the office since the removal of the County seat. This therefore became one of the important charges, upon which he was removed.

This act of the Court immediately gave rise to an investigation of its authority, resulting in the decision that Mr. Landon had no authority, under the circumstances to convene the Court, and consequently that this and all the other acts of the Court at that Term were illegal and void.

The first Term of the Circuit Court held at Little Fort, was opened on the 20th day of October, 1841, present Hon. Theo. W. Smith, Judge presiding; Henry Brown, Esq., States Attorney; L. B. Nichols, Sheriff, and I. R. Gavin, Clerk. Among the Members of the Bar were Horace Butler, Isaac Hopkinson, Giles Spring, Grant Goodrich, P. Ballingall, J. M. Strode, B. S. Morris, Turney Hosmer, and Rucker.

This Court for the want of a more convenient room, was holden in the upper story of the old storehouse, under the Bluff, known as the "Kingston building." During this Term a matter transpired which is doubtless yet fresh in the recollection of our early citizens, and we have thought it not improper, here to recur to it. The Store of H. Buell and Son, situated on the Milwaukee road, about a mile south of the O'Plain house, was broken open in the night and robbed of the greater part of its contents.

This affair, as might well be supposed caus-

ed no small degree of excitement throughout the County as well as in the immediate neighborhood. The neighbors and officers of the law, rallied and made diligent search in various directions for the stolen property. A wagon track was traced leading from the store, over the prairie in a south-western direction, till at length some of the articles were found by the side of it, which had apparently, from the roughness of the road, been thrown from the wagon. These indications led to the barn of Thomas and William Killam, situated about two miles and a half, south of Mr. Buell's store, and near the road, in which, after a thorough search, the goods were all found, concealed in the hay. In the meantime Court having adjourned, the Judge, Members of the Bar and others who had been in attendance, were passing along the road on their return.

These functionaries, attracted by the unusual excitement, alighted by the way and after learning the facts in the case determined upon the arrest of the two Killams and one Edward Allen, more familiarly known as "Ned Allen."

With their prisoners "in tow," they then proceeded to Libertyville, where an examination was held, which resulted in the release of Thomas Killam, while Allen and William were held to bail, in default of which they were committed to the jail of McHenry County. This County having as yet no jail provided.

They were continued in confinement in jail for upwards of a year, when they were tried, convicted, and sentenced each to three years and six months confinement in the penitentiary. Allen served out his time; but poor Killam died a few months before the expiration of his sentence,—it is said, from excessive ill treatment.

Every effort was now being made on the part of the County Commissioners to make Little Fort what its most ardent supporters had pledged their reputation it should be a *market place for Lake County.*

Hitherto all the important roads in the County had been aiming in the the direction of Chicago. This town had always been the great market place for northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The settlers of Lake County, in the beginning, had been compelled to obtain all their supplies from Chicago. Thither also went all their surplus produce, which, from the extra expense of transportation, greatly reduced their profits.

A journey to Chicago with a load, and horse team, could not be made in less than three days, and oftener in four. It is not then to be wondered at, that the agricultural portion of the County should avail themselves of this opportunity of contributing their strength to rear up a market place, as it were, at their own doors, nor that they should feel in some degree elated at so fair a prospect, as was now before them, of having their highest expectations realized.

But this matter has long since passed away, and we, at this time, scarcely realize the disadvantages, which in those days, were endured. Neither are those who have come among us at a later period, conscious of the extent to which they are enjoying the fruits of our hard and early labors.

The policy of things had at this period become changed, and instead of driving all the roads in the direction of Chicago, and arranging all the farms accordingly, they were from this time forward pointed "eastward," in the direction of Little Fort. And many a poor fellow, who after repeated unsuccessful trials

to get a road through his farm, and as near his door as possible, at length found himself without an effort upon one of the best thoroughfares in the County.

Mr. D. O. Dickinson had opened a very full and well selected stock of goods at Little Fort, in the building which he still occupies; and at once commenced doing everything in his power to benefit the farming community by offering them his goods on very reasonable terms and paying them in return a fair price for their produce. The gratitude of the whole County is justly due to Mr. Dickinson for his untiring efforts in sustaining this town. His enterprising example is one, most worthy of imitation; and we cannot but rejoice at the success which has attended him, at length in spite of all the efforts which may have been put forth by others, to impede his progress.

The County Commissioners had offered by way of inducing those who had purchased lots, to build upon them, that whoever should erect a building by a certain time upon his lot, worth \$200, should have his first installment cancelled, and if worth \$500, should have his first and second installment cancelled, and if worth \$1,000, the remaining three installments should be cancelled. Many availed themselves of this very generous offer on the part of the County, which gave quite an impulse to the business operations of the town.

At the December Term of the Commissioners Court, a contract was entered into with Burleigh Hunt for the building of the Jail, which was completed the ensuing summer.

Another important election for County officers, was at length near at hand. The friends of Little Fort put in nomination the following ticket, styled the Democratic ticket.

For Representative—Richard Murphy.

For Sheriff—Lansing B. Nichols.

For Coroner—Henry M. Paddock.

For County Commissioner—William Ladd.

In opposition to which the "Grove" party, or friend of Libertyville, put in nomination the following, which was styled the Whig ticket.

For Representative—Arnold Bigelow.

For Sheriff—John E. Clarkson.

For Coroner—George Wood.

For County Commissioner—Elisha Clark.

Mr. A. B. Wynkoop, the Recorder for the County, had placed himself before the people as an independent candidate for Representative. It will be recollected that this County and Cook at that time, formed a Representative District. Cook County having two Members and Lake one. This move among others, gave rise to another Democratic Convention, which brought out the following ticket.

For Sheriff—James McKay.

For County Commiss'r—Nathaniel Vose, Jr. which body also passed a resolution in favor of Mr. Wynkoop. The election was, as a matter of course, warmly contested, and resulted in the success of the following candidates, Richard Murphy was elected Representative, James McKay, Sheriff; Henry M. Paddock, Coroner, and William Ladd, County Commissioner.

Although Mr. Nichols and Mr. Clarkson, had both been warm supporters of the interests of Little Fort, and were withal, considered very worthy men, yet the enterprising spirit of Mr. McKay, together with his goodness of heart, had won for him a generous esteem throughout the County, in consequence

of which he met with easy success over his competitors.

This season closed with but ordinary success on the part of the farmers. The crop of winter wheat and corn had been light, while that of oats and spring wheat, had been somewhat better; but prices continued discouragingly low. One of the lowest and severest winters followed that the oldest inhabitants have any recollection of. The farmers had provided themselves with only their usual stock of hay, which being exhausted long before opening of spring many of their cattle died for want of feed.

This winter was one filled with interest, and is one long to be remembered. The prophecies of "The Prophet Miller," in relation to the destruction of the World taking place some time in the month of March, 1843, had caused great excitement in this County, as well as elsewhere. Many had become so confident of the truth of this prophecy, as to make all preparation for departing at the time appointed.

During a protracted meeting at Marble's Schoolhouse at Fort Hill, a hen's egg was found upon the premises of Chauncey King with this inscription indelibly engraved upon it, "TIME EXDS 1843." This strange phenomenon was the cause of much excitement and alarm in the neighborhood, and became the subject of quite a discussion at one of the evening meetings, at which it had been produced by Mr. King. Many seemed ready to receive it as one of the "signs of the times," and conceded it was a forerunner of the end of time and the destruction of the World. No one present could account for the manner in which these letters had been caused to appear upon it. At length it was suggested by a

person present, who seemed to possess rather more sagacity than the balance of the audience, that in his opinion the inscription was a matter of art and nothing more; that he believed he could himself prepare an egg upon which the letters would appear in the same manner: and on his return home would make the trial, and if he succeeded, he would produce it at the meeting on the following evening.

He accordingly made the experiment as agreed. The words "REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED" were marked with oil upon the shell. The egg was then put into strong vinegar, when after remaining a time, the surface of the shell was found to be decomposing but the acid had no effect upon that portion where the oil had been applied, consequently it left the form of the letters perfect—raised out from the shell in such a manner as to give the appearance of being so formed in nature. This on being presented to the meeting needed no explanation or comment.

The humbug at once exploded, whilst the credulous audience vainly endeavored to hide their mortification from those, whom credulity had failed to make such easy victims.

So credulous was one old man who examined the egg presented by Mr. King, that he immediately returned home, fully persuaded that it was a special warning of Providence of the near approach of the end of the World. His life hitherto had been far from what it ought to be, which he now, and perhaps for the first time most freely acknowledged. He had been entangled in many perplexing difficulties with his neighbors, which they had endeavored, but in vain, to arrange.

At this time he was in difficulty with two, living near him, whom he immediately,



on returning home, summoned to his house. He informed them in a very sincere manner, of the warning he had received of the destruction of the World, and expressed a desire to prepare himself at once to appear before his Maker. He humbly implored their pardon for the injuries he had done them, if any, and asked that he might make them, just and ample reparations. Their pardon was granted on condition that the matters of difference between them should be promptly and equitably arranged. He therefore proceeded to a settlement, which, with one, was at once completed to the satisfaction of all concerned, while the settlement with the other was postponed for a day or two, by consent of parties, for the concurrence or assistance of a third person, who seemed to be somewhat interested, and who was at this time absent.

The day and hour for concluding the settlement at length arrived. Meanwhile it will be understood that the egg mystery had been all unfolded. The injured party accordingly waited upon our old friend, and informed him that they were ready to proceed with their settlement. "To h—l with your settlement," says our old friend—the new convert,—“the egg business is all a d—n humbug, and I'll have nothing more to do with you, nor your settlement. I'll put you through, every one of you,—get out of my house, or I'll sue you for trespass.”

Thus the matter ended. The untimely discovery of the “humbug,” defeated farther negotiations between the parties and the difficulties between them, unfortunately remained as before.

Upon the approach of the August election for 1843, considerable anxiety, as usual, prevailed. The feeling between the two section-

al parties had increased rather than abated.

In addition to the County officers, members of Congress were to be elected, throughout the State under the apportionment upon the census of 1840. The candidates for this, (the 4th District,) were Col. John Wentworth, Democratic, Giles Spring, Whig, and Richard Murphy, Independent. Dr. Murphy, however withdrew upon the eve of the election; when Col. Wentworth was elected by a flattering majority.—His subsequent deserving success is well known to all; and the service which he rendered his constituents, during his seat in Congress, we are pleased to say, has won for him their highest regard while he has earned for himself, such a reputation as cannot easily impair.

For County officers, the following were the successful candidates, Seth Washburn was elected County Commissioner; Arthur Patterson, County Commissioners' Clerk; H. N. Heald, re-elected School Commissioner; Horace Butler, Probate Justice of the Peace; Samuel M. Dowst, Recorder; D. O. Dickinson, Treasurer and Assessor; and George Gage, County Surveyor.

Mr. Washburn from his locality in the County was, as a matter of course, strongly inclined in favor of Libertyville. Yet great credit is due to him for his impartiality, and manifest integrity, in the discharge of his duties as County Commissioner, during his term of service.

On the 15th of September, 1843; at the September Term of the County Commissioners Court, a contract was made and entered into by the County Commissioners on the part of the County, with B. P. Cahoon of Southport, Wisconsin, for the building of the present Court House, which by the terms of the

contract was to be completed during the year 1844.

The said Cahoon was required to file security for the faithful performance of his contract, to be approved by the Court upon which the Commissioners were to transfer to him all the unsold lots and blocks in the original town of Little Fort, belonging to the County. The said Cahoon was also, in this contract, to redeem the outstanding orders of the County, issued on account of the County land; including the amount still due and unpaid upon the building of the County jail, provided the whole sum should not exceed \$950. As to the value of the unsold lands, which were conveyed to Mr. Cahoon by this contract, the writer is unable to speak, but it is generally believed that nothing was lost upon the part of Mr. Cahoon, but on the contrary, that something pretty handsome was realized by him. But be this as it may, it was perhaps a very judicious operation on the part of the County.

The Court House was completed, and accepted in the fall of 1844; in time for the fall term of the Circuit Court.

The prospects of Little Fort had meanwhile become exceedingly flattering. Several good stores had been opened, among which was a very large and well selected stock, opened by Nathaniel Pitkin of Chicago, which he was offering at reduced prices, and was also giving a spirited competition in the buying of wheat and other kinds of produce.

In the fall of 1843, Mr. H. N. Hild resigned his office as School Commissioner, when on the 8th of January following, at a special election, E. M. Haines, was elected to fill the vacancy.

At the August election for 1844, the following persons were elected County officers:

Horace Butler, Representative ; James McKay re-elected Sheriff ; John G. Ragan, County Commissioner ; and Gilbert Granger, Coroner. A spirited opposition growing out of the feeling between the two local parties, was given to Messrs. Butler and McKay, which was carried to that extent that it amounted to but little less than persecution. The result of which was, however, that it made for them many warm personal, as well as political friends; and it probably convinced their enemies of the truth of Dr. Franklin's saying, "that whatever is begun in anger ends in shame,"

This was the last of the two sectional parties growing out of the re-location of the County seat.

On the 4th of March 1845, the first number of a Newspaper, entitled the "Little Fort Porcupine and Democratic Banner," was issued at Little Fort by N. W. Fuller as Publisher, and A. B. Wynkoop as Editor and Proprietor; it being the first Newspaper published in the County.

We give the following extract from the first number of this paper, which will be best appreciated by those who were best acquainted with its subsequent character.

"To-day, March 4th, is notable for two things. It is the inauguration day of President Polk, and Vice President Dallas, as well as the "Little Fort Porcupine and Democratic Banner." Great day this, at Little Fort and Washington."

It is probably unnecessary to make any comment upon the general character of this sheet, as it is no doubt well remembered by all who were residents of the County at the time of its publication, which was continued only for about two years, when it was suspended "sine die."

The "Lake County Herald" by N. P. and S. M. Dowst, was the second Newspaper in the County. Its publication was commenced in the summer of 1845, and was continued for one year only. It was Whig in its politics, and was well and ably conducted.

Mr. N. P. Dowst had formerly been in charge of the "Southport American," one of the best conducted political Journals ever published at that place, and consequently was no stranger to the task before him. This paper would doubtless have continued its publication to the present day; but it was soon ascertained that the business of the town and surrounding country would not support it. The population of Little Fort being at that time only about 500.

At the ensuing August election, the following persons were elected County officers: D. O. Dickinson was elected County Commissioner; E. M. Haines re-elected School Commissioner, and Jeremiah Porter was elected Treasurer and Assessor.

This election, although of but little importance, was a very exciting one. Benj. Marks, Esq., was the opposing candidate for County Commissioner; but through the influence of the "Porcupine and Banner" connected with that of certain individuals, he was defeated.

Nothing occurs to our mind, at the present time, as having transpired during the coming year, worth of note.

The August election for 1846, came off after a spirited contest as usual, with the following result: George Ela was elected Representative; James McKay, Sheriff; Michael C. Maguire and Jacob Drum, County Commissioners; (Mr. Ragan having resigned, leaving a vacancy of two, in the board of Commissioners,) and Henry W. Dorsett was elected Coroner.

At this election the question of a Convention for the revision of the State Constitution was submitted to the people by an Act of the Legislature at its Session of 1844 and '45, which resulted in favor of such Convention by a large majority.

Under an Act to re-apportion the representation in the several Counties in the State, Lake and McHenry Counties were to form a Senatorial and Representative District; being entitled to three Representatives; one for each County, and one for the two Counties together.

This Act however was superseded by the new Constitution, and consequently never went into effect.

The third Monday in April 1847, was the time fixed for choosing the Delegates to amend the State Constitution. Lake County being entitled to two Delegates in the Convention. The candidates regularly in the field, were Hon. Horace Butler, Hon. Hurlburt Swan, E. W. Hoyt, Nathaniel Vose, and Michael C. Maguire. Messrs. Butler and Swan were elected by flattering majorities.

Mr. Butler had previously served one term in the Legislature, during which he secured for himself the esteem of that body and the entire confidence of his constituents. This expression, therefore, of the electors of the County was but a renewed assurance of their continued regard.

In the fall of 1846, D. O. Dickinson resigned his office of County Commissioner, when at a special election, in January following, Alva Trowbridge of Libertyville, was elected in his stead.

In June 1846, Mr. Gavin resigned his office of Clerk of the Circuit Court, when Isaac Hopkinson, Esq., a member of the Lake

County Bar, and the first lawyer who settled at Little Fort, was appointed by Judge Young in his stead. He continued in office until June 1847, when he was succeeded by George Thomson, Esq., of Fort Hill, under appointment of Hon. Jesse B. Thomas, who had succeeded Mr. Young as Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Hopkinson was a man of good abilities and highly respected. His generous and affable demeanor, together with his uprightness of conduct had secured for him a large circle of friends in the vicinity in which he lived. He died in April, 1851, in the prime of life, leaving an interesting family, to mourn his untimely loss.

In the summer of 1847, a newspaper, entitled the "Lake County Visitor," published by N. W. Fuller, under the editorial supervision of H. W. Blodgett, Esq., made its appearance upon the ruins of the "Porcupine," but when we say that it arose upon the ruins of the "Porcupine," we do not wish the reader to infer that in its character, it was, in any respect, like that of the "Porcupine," but on the contrary, the "Visitor" was conducted with ability and discretion, and was during its existence, a very popular journal. It was neutral in politics; but its publication was continued only for about six months.

Upon the opening of spring this year, it was discovered throughout the County, as well as throughout a great portion of Illinois and Wisconsin, that the winter wheat which had been sown the previous fall, had been by the very unfavorable winter and spring, entirely destroyed, which loss upon the part of the farmers, especially in this County, many of them have at the present day scarcely recovered from. They had, most imprudently,

contracted debts in addition to their former incidental liabilities, upon the bright prospect of an abundant crop of winter wheat, which had now entirely failed. In consequence of which, they were compelled at the close of the year, in order to meet their liabilities, and save themselves as they deemed it, from a harder fate, to borrow money at unmerciful rates of interest paying in many instances as high as sixty per cent.

The election for County officers for 1847 was a very exciting one. The office of County Recorder, it was generally understood, had become a very lucrative one; in consequence of which there were many eager aspirants. At this time, there was a thorough organization in the County of their political parties. The Democratic, Whig, and Liberty party. Each had placed candidates before the people and were urging their claims. The election closed with the following result: D. H. Sherman was elected Recorder; Thomas Maguire, Probate Justice; Charles Hall, County Commissioner; John L. Clark, Clerk of the County Commissioners Court; Isaac H. Smith, School Commissioner; Ira Holdridge, Treasurer and Assessor; and George Gage, County Surveyor.

Mr. Clark continued in the office of Clerk but a short time when he resigned, upon which the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Arthur Patterson, Esq.

Mr. McKay soon after resigned his office of Sheriff, when an election was ordered to be held on the 18th of October following, to fill the vacancy of the two offices; at which Henry W. Dorsett was elected to the office of Sheriff, and Amos S. Waterman, was elected Clerk of the County Commissioners Court.

During the September term of the Circuit

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Court for 1847, a tragedy was perpetrated at Fort Hill, the frightful nature of which caused great excitement over a wide portion of country. This however, is a matter which perhaps might with propriety be omitted, but as the writer has "promised and undertaken" to give a full and true account of the County, embracing incidents of interest, he feels himself called upon to give a passing notice of this affair. Names of individuals must necessarily be mentioned in connexion with the transaction, but as a jury of their country subsequently acquitted them of the charges preferred, making mention of the subject at this time, cannot certainly operate against them.

On the morning after a ball or harvest party, at Goodale's tavern, the body of one Silas Marble was found in the barn yard a short distance south-east from the house, in a shocking mangled condition. Several large clubs were found near the body, which gave conclusive evidence of the manner in which his death had been caused. Coroner Dorsett was immediately notified, when an inquest was summoned over the the body, who after hearing what evidence could be adduced in the case, returned a verdict of death by violence, and that they had reason to suspect, that Joel B. Sherman, Jacob Sherman and Spencer Miler, living in the neighborhood of Fort Hill, were guilty of the murder. They were accordingly, on the following morning, arrested, and confined in jail. They were subsequently brought out, on a writ of *habeas corpus* before Judge Dickey, but were remanded that the matter might have a further investigation, at the next Session of the Court; a special term of which was ordered to be held in the forepart of December following; at

which they were all indicted for the crime of murder, and put upon their trial. They were most ably and ingeniously defended by Messrs. J. J. Brown of Chicago, and E. W. Hoyt and H. W. Blodgett, of Waukegan, and after a protracted trial, were acquitted.

It seems from the evidence that the deceased was a young man whose occupation had been that of a pedlar, traveling on foot with tin trunks. That in the afternoon of the harvest party, he was in the neighborhood of the Shermans, traveling in the direction of Goodale's. He was accosted by one of them, and invited to tarry a while, when he could ride up with them, as they intended going to the party themselves. He accordingly did so.

He was known to have arrived at Goodale's in company with Miller and Jacob Sherman, whilst they, in company with Joel B. Sherman were known to have returned without him. Marble was not seen in the house after about 10 o'clock in the evening. There was also a portion of the evening that neither of the accused could give any satisfactory account of their whereabouts. There was also some singular movements upon the part of the Shermans during the evening, as well as some statements afterwards, on the part of Miller, which had a tendency to fasten suspicion pretty firmly upon them. But the whole was not sufficient it seems, to convict them.

It is evident that some person or persons with whom he must have been well acquainted, invited him to walk with them in the direction of the barn, and on arriving there, suddenly inflicted several violent blows upon his head with clubs which were afterwards found near the body, which probably caused instant death, and while the murderers were in the act of taking from his pocket what

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little money he had in his possession, which seems to have been the object of the murder, they were evidently disturbed or surprised by a team which was driven to the barn about that time ; in consequence of which, the body was left unconcealed in the position in which it had been on the following morning.

It is supposed by his friends that he had at the time only about \$40 in money upon his person ; only \$30 of which the murderers succeeded in obtaining, in consequence of being so surprised.

Great credit was given to Mr. Dorsett for the efficient manner in which he discharged his duties both as Coroner and Sheriff, during the pendency of this investigation.

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CHAPTER VI.

The necessity of adopting more efficient measures for the support of the poor of the County, had for some time been under the consideration of the County Commissioners. when at a Special Term of the Court in October 1847, they entered into contract with Alva Trowbridge, who was at that time one of their number, for the purchase of his farm at Libertyville, containing about 199 acres, to be held for the retreat and support of the poor. The consideration for the same, including some articles of personal property was \$2,025, payable as follows, \$1,500 on the first Monday in March 1848, and the balance on the first Monday in March 1849; with interest at six per cent. after the first payment become due. Possession of the premises was given on the first day of December 1847.

There was, upon the farm a very comfortable convenient dwelling house, sufficient for the purposes for which, in future, it was de-

signed, together with the necessary out buildings.

This plan, however, of supporting the County poor, was at length found to be very expensive,—much more so, than had even been anticipated. An Act of the Legislature was therefore obtained at its Session in 1851, submitting the question of each township, supporting its own poor, and authorizing the County to dispose of the *poor farm*, which resulted in favor of township support of the poor. Whereupon an order was made by the Board of Supervisors to dispose of the farm, with the exception of about forty acres, upon which the buildings were situated.

The policy of the County Commissioners in purchasing this farm, we believe, was not generally approved of, especially by the tax-paying portion of the inhabitants of the County. The writer, however, is not disposed here to cast any serious reflections upon that honorable body in relation to this transaction of theirs, or in relation to any of their doings.—The record of that Court, is open to all.

About the first of October the publication of the Lake County Chronicle, (now Waukegan Chronicle,) was commenced by W. H. H. Tobey and Co., under the editorial supervision of Mr. A. B. Tobey, which superseded the Lake County Visitor. The Chronicle continues its publication to the present time; and has, we believe, ever received, and probably justly merits a liberal patronage at the hands of the citizens of the County.

The August election for 1848, at length, was at hand; it was one of considerable importance, and was, as usual, most warmly contested. The following was the result; Life Wilson was elected to the office of Representative; H. W. Dorsett, re-elected She-

riff; D. A. Reese, County Commissioner, and Moses Evans, Coroner.

In the spring of 1849 commenced the great excitement for California—the land of gold—which subsequently induced great numbers of our citizens to leave their homes for the purpose of trying their fortunes in that far off region. Among the early adventurers from this County, were George Allen Hibbard, Isaiah Marsh, George Ferguson, D. H. Sherman, William and James Steele, and Jacob Miller.

The fate of young Hibbard; who left in the fall of 1848, being the first adventurer from this County, is most sad to relate. He had established himself at Waukegan in the mercantile trade, with the most flattering prospects of success before him, when at length the current of fortune, seemed as if by magic, to be turned against him.—Betrayed and forsaken by those who professed to be his friends, he became disheartened, and at length abandoned all hope of ever regaining his former position.—His proud spirit would scarce permit him to make the attempt, lest he might still be unsuccessful. Inspired by the vigor of youth, he resolved to leave his friends and home, and try his fortune in California with the hope, that by a season of perseverance in that country, which was now well understood to be one of spontaneous wealth, he might return home in such a position as would enable him to triumph over his misfortunes.

On arriving at St. Louis, he learned that Col. Fremont was in the city, raising a company of adventurers to accompany him across the plains; he accordingly waited upon the Colonel, informed him of his intentions, and desired to be enrolled in his service. His

frankness of expression, together with his dignity of manners, at once attracted the attention of Col. Fremont, who soon became so much prepossessed in his favor, that he enrolled him as one of his corps of adventurers, which now consisted of about fifty persons, who had been selected with reference to the journey before them. They left St. Louis about the first of December 1848. Nothing of importance occurred to impede their progress, until they had reached a chain of mountains about 1,500 miles from the frontier, when their guide apparently became bewildered, and they suddenly found themselves engulfed in mountains of snow. Their stock of provisions soon became exhausted, which left them no alternative, but to abandon their mules, and make the best of their way on foot in search of assistance. Exhausted from hunger and fatigue, several of the company, one by one, sunk down by the wayside in despair, and closed their eyes forever.—Young Hibbard was among the number.—Some three or four of the party had been despatched in advance, in quest of relief; they at length returned with the glad tidings of success. The survivors at once retraced their steps to enquire into the condition of their unfortunate companions, whom they had been compelled, most reluctantly, to leave behind them. They first came to the body of Hibbard which was found lifeless, but somewhat warm. It was evident, that, could they have reached him a few moments sooner, he might have been restored; but it was now too late, his spirit had departed to "that haven of peace, where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary shall find rest." He left an interesting and accomplished companion, to whom he had been married, but a few months

previous to his departure, as well as a large circle of friends and relations to mourn his melancholy fate.

In the spring of 1848, the citizens of Waukegan became aroused to the necessity of taking measures for the improvement of the public roads leading westward. They were receiving liberal patronage from the Counties of McHenry and Boone, and in order to ensure the same for time to come, they saw the necessity of permanently improving some one at least of the public thoroughfares leading from Waukegan, westward. Accordingly a meeting was convened at the Court House for the purpose of conference upon the subject, and for devising some means to accomplish the object in view. A committee of three, consisting of Capt. Hiram Huginin, E. W. Hoyt and Alva Trowbridge, was appointed by the meeting to investigate the subject and report at an adjourned meeting. A very able and elaborate report was made by the committee, in which they recommended the organization of a Company or Association under Chapter XLII, of the Revised Statutes, for the purpose of constructing a plank road from Waukegan to McHenry, which suggestion being concurred in, Captain Hiram Huginin, Elmsly Sanderlin and D. S. Dewey, were chosen as a committee to procure a license from the County Commissioners Court, to enable them to construct the road in accordance with the law.

As is usually the case with great projects of this nature, especially in new countries, after the lapse of a few months, the excitement in a measure subsided, and the matter became partially forgotten, which, however, resulted, perhaps mostly from a want of funds to prosecute the work.

In the fall of 1848, John Gage, Esq., who had been a very successful business operator in the City of Chicago, and who had at this time become a resident, and a very extensive land holder in the County of Lake, saw the great benefits which would result from an improvement of this kind, and resolved to aid the project. Accordingly at the December Term of the County Commissioners Court, the following order was procured and adopted.

*Ordered,* That license and authority be and the same is hereby given to Hiram Augunitz, Elmsly Sunderlin and Dennis S. Dewey, their successors or assigns, to construct and establish a Turnpike Plank Causeway, from Little Fort, [now Waukegan,] in Lake County, to the east line of McHenry County, on the route of the Belvidere road as it is now laid, or as it may hereafter be changed or re-located, and they may depart from and enter into said road at any place, for the purpose of straightening or benefiting the location of the road; commencing at or in Little Fort aforesaid, and continuing to the McHenry County line. They have filed their bond, given the requisite security and affidavits—paid the assessments, and otherwise complied with the provisions of the Statute of Revised Statutes, page 251. &c.

*And we further order,* That the following rates of toll be established as the maximum:—

For each 4 horses and coach,	
wagon or sleigh,	3½ cts. per mile.
For each 2 horses or oxen,	
wagon or sleigh,	2½ cts. per mile.
For 1 horse and buggy, wagon	
or sleigh, &c.,	2 cts. per mile.
For 1 horse,	1 cent per mile.
For each head of cattle,	½ cent per mile.



For each head of sheep or hogs,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per mile, and for things and creatures not enumerated, rates in accordance with the above.

Under this grant Articles of Association were immediately entered into—the name and style of which was to be the “Lake and McHenry Plank Road Association,” with a Capital Stock of \$45,000, about \$25,000, of which had been already subscribed. The Stock being divided with shares of \$50.

The Articles of Association, provided for the election of three Directors, annually, one of whom should act as President, one as Secretary, and one as Treasurer, to be determined among themselves.

At the first election, which was held at the Exchange Hotel [Vollar House,] in Waukegan, in December 1848, John Gage, John A. Tyrrell and Elmsly Sunderlin, were chosen Directors: Mr. Gage was selected as President; Mr. Tyrrell as Secretary, and Mr. Sunderlin as Treasurer. These gentlemen have been since annually re-elected, and still continue in office. The energy of Mr. Gage, and the unsurpassed business qualifications of Mr. Tyrrell are so well and favorably known to all, that probably no further comment is necessary.—The business affairs of this Association can never be committed to better and safer hands.

The Association being now fully organized, and the requisite assessments having been paid upon the stock subscribed, the work of the road was commenced. A contract was entered into with Messrs. John Gage and Alva Trowbridge, for the required amount of plank; for the purpose of furnishing, which they erected a steam saw-mill upon the Des Plaines River at Saugatuck, where all the plank, except one mile of the east end, was

sawed. After filling which contract, the mill fell exclusively into the hands of Mr. Trowbridge who removed it to Michigan.

Early in the spring, six miles of the road was put under contract and completed during the summer. The contractors were J. C. Bloom, and Capt. Hiram Hugunin. The summer following the road was put under contract to Wallace Sunderlin, and Collins Gowdy, as far as Hainesville, and completed to that place about the first of October; making the whole distance of the road completed at this time  $12\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

The following season, Robert Carroll was employed by the Company to extend the road  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles further, which was accomplished about the first of November 1851, making the whole distance of the road now completed, 15 miles at a probable cost of about \$2,000 per mile.

At the Session of the Legislature for 1851, the Association obtained the following enactment. "That the Lake and McHenry Plank Road Association shall have the right to extend their road from its present termination through the Counties of Lake, McHenry and Boone, in such direction as the said Company may choose, on obtaining the consent of the Board of Supervisors of the respective Counties through which said road shall pass; and may make a good turnpike road without plank wherever the nature of the ground will admit, and for this purpose the time of completing the road shall be extended to the first day of July, A. D. 1860, and they may at all times exercise and possess all rights and privileges over the road as far as it is constructed, as fully as they would be were the road fully completed.

"The capital stock of said Company may be increased to \$150,000."

This road has three toll gates established upon it, for the collecting of toll ; one about a mile west of Waukegan, one at the residence of John Gage, and one at Hainesville.

The road has thus far paid a good interest upon the capital invested.

All must acknowledge, that this road has given a great impulse to the business affairs of Waukegan, and while it has done this, it has greatly enhanced the value of property throughout the County, especially through the central portion of it.

At the election for County officers for 1849 which had now been changed by the new Constitution, to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each year, a vote was taken in pursuance of law, for or against township organization, which resulted as follows :

For township organization,	1092
Against do. do.	3

The following is the result at this election for County officers :

Judge of the Court, Wm. A. Boardman.

Associates, { E. S. Ingalls,  
                  { Peter Mills.

County Clerk, Amos S. Waterman.

Treasurer, John A. Tyrrell.

School Commissioner, Lyman Sprague.

The election having resulted in favor of township organization, it became the duty of the Board sitting for the transaction of County business on the first Monday in December following to appoint three Commissioners to divide the County into Towns and affix their names. The County Judge and his Associates not having received their commissions from the Governor on the first Monday in December, the old Board of County Commis-

sioners proceeded to hold the term of Court, at which they appointed Col. J. Moulton, Michael Dulanty and Elijah M. Haines, as the Commissioners to divide the County of Lake into Towns, under the law establishing township organization, who upon being qualified according to law, entered upon their duties in the month of January following, when the County was divided into Towns as follows. Each Congressional Township in the County was set off as a Town for organization, except fractional Township 46, Range 9, being 4 miles in width, which was attached to Township 46, Range 10; the name of Benton was applied to Township 46, Range 12. The name of Newport was applied to Township 46, Range 11. The name of Antioch was applied to Town 46, Range 10 and 9; taking the name from the Village of Antioch therein. The name of Goodale was applied to Township 45, Range 9, in honor of Deveraux Goodale, Esq., one of the early and enterprising settlers of the Township. The name of Avon was applied to Township 45, Range 10. The name of Warren was applied to Township 45, Range 11. The name of Waukegan was applied to Township 45, Range 12, taking its name of course from the Village of Waukegan therein. The name of Shields was applied to Township 44, Range 12, in honor of Gen. James Shields, now of the United States Senate. The name of Libertyville was applied to Township 44, Range 11, taking its name from the Village of Libertyville therein. The name of Freemont was applied to Township 44, Range 10, in honor of Col. J. C. Freemont of California. The name of Wauconda was applied to Township 44, Range 9, taking its name from the Village of Wauconda therein, situated upon Bangs'

Lake. The name of Troy was applied to Township 43, Range 9, but subsequently changed however by the Board of Supervisors to Cuba. The name of Ela was applied to Township 43, Range 10, in honor of Hon. George Ela, one of the early and enterprising settlers of the Township, and formerly a Representative in the State Legislature from this County. The name of Vernon was applied to Township 43, Range 11, and the name of Deerfield was applied to Township 43, Range 12.

On the first Tuesday in April following (1850) the first Town Meeting was held in each Town for the election of Town officers, and the transaction of Town business, the result of which will be given in its proper order in part second.

The first Board of Supervisors convened in the County of Lake, was convened in Special Session at the Court House on the 22d day of April 1850. The following members appeared and took their seats :

Harrison P. Nelson	from the Town of Antioch.
John Gage,	" Avon.
Harrison L. Putnam,	" Benton.
Philetus Beverly,	" Cuba.
Caleb Cadwell,	" Deerfield.
Stephen Bennet,	" Ela.
Hurlbut Swan,	" Freemont.
Chester Hamilton,	" Goodale.
William Crane,	" Libertyville.
John Reid,	" Newport.
Michael C. McGuire,	" Shields.
James Moore,	" Vernon.
Peter Mills,	" Wauconda.
H. Whitney,	" Warren.
Jas. B. Gorton,	" Waukegan.

About the first of August 1849, the publi-

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ation of the Waukegan Free Democrat was commenced by John Henderson as Publisher, under the Editorial supervision of N. W. Fuller, formerly publisher of the Porcupine, the publication of which was continued only for about six months.

The general election for County officers for 1850 came off with the following result: Hurlbut Swan was elected Representative to the State Legislature; Lyman Sprague, Sheriff; K. M. Hutchinson, Treasurer; Leroy D. Gage, School Commissioner; and J. Bangs, Coroner.

In the month of October 1850, was commenced the publication of the Waukegan Gazette by N. C. Geer, which for extent of circulation, has thus far exceeded any newspaper ever published in the County. It is a spirited advocate of Whig principles, and has done much to restore the position of the party in Lake County.

The November election for 1851 for County officers, came off with the following result: K. M. Hutchinson, Esq., was elected Treasurer; O. M. Burke, School Commissioner; and George Hale, County Surveyor.

The Legislature at its Session in 1851 passed an Act to incorporate a Company for constructing a Rail Road from Chicago to the State line in the direction of Milwaukee, by way of Waukegan. A sufficient amount of Stock has already been subscribed to enable the Company to consummate its organization by the election of Directors; and it is now made certain that the work of the road will be commenced by the opening of the coming spring, and speedily completed. The route to pursue from Chicago to Waukegan is now in agitation; liberal propositions we understand have been made to the Company, at

different points, but as yet the matter remains undecided.

The Company however seem willing and inclined in the location of the road to take into consideration the interest of the public at large, and especially that of the inhabitants of the County, every citizen of the County being more or less interested in the enterprize, for the work when completed will render Lake County in advantages and facilities, nearly equal to any County in the State. Let everyone therefore show his good will.

END OF PART I.

Having concluded our general observations of the County, we now proceed to give a brief review of each Township in its order, and in doing so the writer has been, perhaps, more minute than may be thought proper, or necessary to interest the reader at the present day, but the time will come when a production of this kind will be sought for and read with interest, and the more minute it is in its character, the more interest it will contain for the reader.

## PART II.

### TOWN OF ANTIOCH.

This Town is composed of Township 46, north, Range 10 east, and that part of Township 46, north, Range 9, lying on the west, belonging to Lake County, being four miles in width, making the whole length of the Town 10 miles by 6 in width. It is bounded on the north by Wisconsin, on the east by Newport, on the south by Aven, and on the west by McHenry County.

This Town has within its borders, 18 Lakes, as follows: Dunn Lake, Stevens Lake, Grass Lake, Lake Marin, Channel Lake, Lake Catharine, Silver Lake, Loon Lake, Deer Lake, Crapo Lake, Crooked Lake, Deep Lake, Sun Lake, Cedar Lake, Petite Lake, Handkerchief Lake, Bluff Lake, and Hastings Lake.

There are also 4 other Lakes, which lie



partly in other Towns, as follows: Overton Lake, Cross Lake, Fox Lake, and Hurlburt Lake; most of the Lakes in this Town are equally beautiful with those of the other Towns in the County, and their average size is about the same.

In addition to the foregoing Lakes, this Town is watered by Fox river, Otter creek, Sequoit creek, North branch of Mill creek, Hastings creek, and Petite creek. Upon Sequoit creek, there is an excellent saw mill, situated in the Village of Antioch, which was built by Mr. Hiram Butrick in 1839.

The first permanent claims of Government Lands made in this Town, were made in the month of December 1836, by D. B. Gage, Thomas Q. Gage, and Thomas Warner. The first house built within the limits of the Town, was built in April 1837, by D. B. and Thomas Q. Gage, near Sequoit creek, on the present site of the Village of Antioch. The second was built by Thomas Warner, near Loon Lake, in the month of June of the same year. These gentlemen had located themselves temporarily at Walker's bridge, on the Des Plaines river, in Cook County. In December 1837 they followed up the river upon an Indian trail, to Mill creek, from whence they proceeded westward to Loon Lake, where they made them a claim and put up a log cabin, from whence, after a few days they proceeded on their return, by way of the Maquonago trail, which was a trail diverging from the great Milwaukee trail at a point near the mouth of Indian creek, where formerly had been an Indian Village, and running from thence north-westerly to an Indian Village in Wisconsin, called Maquonago.

Being late in December, the weather had become severely cold and boisterous. They

found the trail much obstructed by fallen trees, and being unacquainted with the route, their progress was slow, in consequence of which they came near freezing to death, but finally succeeded in reaching the house of Willard Jones, at Jones' point which was about 13 miles from Loon Lake.

The Village of Antioch—a thriving place—is situated in the northern part of this Town, on Sequoit creek. It was commenced in 1840, and contains at the present time about 300 inhabitants. It affords two good stores, a tavern and such mechanics as are needed in an agricultural country. It has also two lawyers, E. S. Ingalls and Wm. L. Stevens, as well as two excellent physicians, Doctors L. D. Gage and Daniel Lewis.

In 1840 the writer was present and participated at the first fourth of July celebration held at this place, and it was such an occasion as he will ever delight to hold in pleasing remembrance, and no less can probably be said by all who participated. A good band of martial music was in attendance to give life and spirit to the occasion. Freeman Bridge acted as Martial of the day, and acquitted himself nobly. The Declaration of Independence was read by Hiram Butrick, and an excellent oration was delivered by Harrison P. Nelson, Esq.

The original proprietors of this place were D. B. Gage, F. F. & P. Munson, and E. S. Ingalls.

The first stock of goods opened at this place, we believe, was by F. F. Munson. The first tavern or house of entertainment was by D. B. Gage, and the first blacksmith shop was by E. F. Ingalls.

The early settlers of this Town were D. B. Gage, Thomas Warner, Thomas Q. Gage.

Henry Rector, William Fagher, Robert, E. F. Ingalls, Laomi Piersons, E. galls, H. P. Nelson, H. Nichols, Cha McClellen, F. F. Munson, Parnell M Leland Cook and Hiram Butrick.

The Gages, Warner and Rector, were from the State of New York; Fagher and Stalker, we believe, were natives from the Isle of Man; the Ingalls, Pearsons, Nelson and McClellen, were from New Hampshire.

The first election held within the present limits of this Town, was in October 1839, under the old Precinct arrangement, which was for the purpose of electing officers for Bristol Precinct. This election was held at the house of Thomas Warner at Loon Lake, at which there were 16 votes cast—all told.—The following is a list of the voters. Thos. Q. Gage, D. B. Gage, E. F. Ingalls, Henry Rector; H. P. Nelson, Miles Shepard, Laomi Pearson, Chas. O. McClellen, Thos. McClellen, Oren Parker, George Rae, Thos. Warner, Hiram Butrick, J. B. Rice, F. F. Munson and Horace Butrick. —Laomi Pearsons & Oren Parker were elected Justices of the Peace, and John B. Rice and George Rae were elected Constables.

The first Town meeting, in this Town, under the present Township organization was held at the tavern of D. B. Gage, in the Village of Antioch. Dr. L. D. Gage was chosen moderator, and Eli S. Derby, clerk. The following is a list of the Town officers elected at this meeting: Harrison P. Nelson, Supervisor; Eli Gage, Townclerk; Thomas Webb, Assessor; John H. Elliott, Collector; Chas. Webb and Robert K. Colts, Justices of the Peace; Ira Webb, A. B. Paddock and E. C. Stephens, Commissioners of Highways; Robert Pollock, Overseer of Poor; John H. Elliott and Albert Webb, Constables. The next

bet of votes cast at this Town meeting was 145.

The present Town officers of the Town, are as follows: Supervisors, Charles Webb; Assessor, Geo. Hale; Townclerk, Delos S. Cook; Collector, S. S. Drum; Commissioners of Highways, Myron Eminons, H. Lincoln and Chester Ames; Overseer of the Poor, John R. Arnold; Justices of the Peace, Chas. Webb, L. D. Gage, and E. S. Ingalls, (Associate Justice of the County Court); Constables, John H. Elliott and S. S. Drum. The present County Surveyor, George Hale, resides in this Town. The number of votes cast at the last Town meeting was 169.

This Town is divided into 11 school districts. The amount of township school fund for Town 46, Range 10, is \$1,400.

The post offices in this Town are Antioch, Hickory and Milburn. The office at Antioch was established in 1846, and Dr. L. D. Gage, appointed Postmaster. The office at Hickory was established, February 3d, 1848, and Chester Ames appointed Postmaster, who still continues in office. The office at Milburn was established, February 10th, 1848, and Robert Strong appointed Postmaster, who still continues in office.

The inhabitants of this Town are mostly from the states of New York and New Hampshire and are characterized for their industrious and temperate habits.

This Town, for the rearing of stock probably possesses advantages over any other Township in the County—being so remarkably well watered, and at the same time possessing an unsurpassed quality of soil. The size of farms ranges from 40 to 320 acres.

The assessment value of property in this Town for 1850, including both real and per-

son was \$88,904 00. The amount of tax on the same was \$1,744 51.

### TOWN OF AVON.

This, as a Congressional Township is known as Township 45, north, Range 10, east of the 3d P. M. It has within its limits 9 Lakes, as follows: Gray's Lake, Cranberry Lake, Taylor's Lake, Round Lake, Sand Lake, Slough Lake, the 3d and 4th of Gage's Lakes, and part of the 2d and a small portion of Long Lake.

Gray's Lake takes its name from William Gray, who lived for several years upon its borders, and was one of the early settlers of this Township. This Lake is about one half mile in length and one fourth of a mile in width, and lies in section 27 and 34.

Cranberry Lake is but a small pond upon the north-east quarter of section 28, which is nearly surrounded by a marsh, affording yearly an abundance of cranberries.

While this marsh was in possession of Mr. Samuel Gunwood, it is said that he usually gathered from it, annually about 200 bushels of cranberries.

Taylor's Lake takes its name from an individual of this name, who was the first settler in its vicinity, and we believe, the first in the Township. In 1835 he made a claim of land upon the north side of this Lake, where he built a log house, and continued in possession till 1837, when the premises passed into the hands of Leonard Gage, where he continues to reside at the present time. This Lake is about half a mile long and about one hundred rods in width, in section 21 and 22.

Round Lake, the third of this chain, is so named from its round and regular form. This

Lake is about three-fourths of a mile across it, and is one of the most beautiful Lakes in the County.

Sand Lake lies near the north line of the Township, mostly in section two. It is nearly one half mile in length, and about one-fourth of a mile in width. It is so named from its sandy shores.

Slough Lake is but a small pond, lying in the south-east quarter of section three, and is so named from its being mostly surrounded by a marsh or slough.

Gage's Lakes are so called from the Gage brothers, who were the first claimants of land in the vicinity. This is a very beautiful chain of Lakes of four in number. The fourth is the largest of the chain, being something over a mile in length and varying in width, from one-fourth to three-fourths of a mile. It lies mostly upon section 11. The third Lake lies in sections 13 and 24, and is about eighty rods across it; its form being nearly round. About one half of the second Lake lies in this Township on section 24.

In addition to the foregoing Lakes, this Township is watered by Squaw or Deer creek, which passes through the south-western portion of the Township, and also by the South branch of Mill creek, which passes through the eastern portion, upon which first mentioned stream there is one of the best saw-mills in the County, owned by Mr. Nahum White, situated in the western part of the Township.

Probably no other Township in the County, which possesses an equally good quality of land in other respects, with the exception of Antioch, is as well and conveniently watered as this. The Lakes mostly have beautiful gravel shores, and are so interspersed through

the Township as to afford an abundance of water for every neighborhood.

The early settlers of this Township were Noah Potter and sons, Churchill Edwards, Delazan E. Haines, Harley H. Hendee, David Hendee, David Rich, Levi Marble, George Thompson, Thos. Renehan, Leonard Gage, Thomas Welsh, A. T. Miltimore, Lawrence Forvor, Freeman Bridge, Nathaniel King and William Gray; most of these individuals are still residents of the Township. Noah Potter and David Hendee have since died, and Mr. Haines and Bridge have removed to other States. Mr. Potter and sons emigrated from Penn'a.; Edwards, Haines, Hendees, Rich, Gage, Bridge, King and Gray, were from the State of N. Y.; Marble, Thompson and Forvor, were from Ohio, and Renehan and Welsh were from Ireland.

Two or three claims of Government lands were made in this Township in 1835, but no improvements of any consequence were made, except the log house or cabin of Mr. Taylor, until the summer of 1837, when the settlement at the Township may be said to have fairly commenced.

The Village of Hainesville is within this Township, about a mile and a half south from the centre, on the Lake and McHenry plank road. The history of this place is probably familiar to nearly every inhabitant of the County; the writer has therefore thought it unnecessary to be very lengthy in his remarks upon its rise and progress. The first house upon the ground of the present Village plot was built in the fall of 1839, which in 1844 was converted into a tavern house. In February 1846 a post office was established here under the name of Hainesville and Elijah M. Haines appointed Postmaster. The

Following spring the Village plot was surveyed out and recorded, which may be considered as the date of the commencement of the Town.

Among the first inhabitants of this Village, were Elijah M. Haines, the original proprietor, Jacob T. DeVoe, Benjamin Welch, Dr P. Dickinson, Isaac A. DeVoe, Harvey Whitney, Abner Fox, Daniel Ingalls, Robert D. Gordon, and Alvin Truesdell. The place at this time affords a large and commodious public house; two stores, and various mechanics, such as are usually found in a country Village.

There is a Masonic Lodge in this Village of about 35 members and a flourishing Division of Sons of Temperance of about 40 members. The post offices in this Town are Hainesville, Angola, Gage's Lakes and Fox Lake.

There are many independent and forehanded farmers in this Town, who are at this time turning their attention to the rearing of stock and culture of fruit. The most extensive farm, is that of John Gage, situated in the south-east part of the Town. The most extensive dealers in stock are Leonard Gage and Churchill Edwards.

The large and extensive fruit nursery of Levi Mudgett, Esq., is a matter also worthy of notice; it contains about 50,000 trees of the various kinds of fruit and of choice varieties.

The first Town meeting in this Town was convened at the Hotel in the Village of Hainesville. Nahum White was chosen moderator, and Leonard Gage, clerk, at which the following persons were elected Town officers: John Gage, Supervisor; Orville Slusser, Town Clerk; James Kapple, Overseer of Poor; Caleb Arnold, Leonard Gage and Robert Carroll Commissioners of Highways; Levi



Marble and W. B. Dodge, Justices of the Peace ; John Salisbury, Collector ; John Salisbury and Robert D. Gordon, Constables ; Freeman Bridge, Assessor. The number of votes cast at this Town meeting was 128.

The Town meeting for 1852 was held at Gage's school house ; S. L. Emery was chosen moderator. The following persons were chosen Town officers : Supervisor, Orville Shusser ; Town Clerk, S. L. Emery ; Assessor, Aaron F. Miltimore ; Collector, Samuel J. Avery ; Overseer of the Poor, E. W. Avery ; Commissioners of Highways, David Hall, Peter Wright and Nahum White.

The assessment value of property in this Town for 1850, including both real and personal, was \$80,266 60. The amount of tax on the same was \$1,037 23.

This Town has five entire school districts, and five fractional districts. The amount of the Township school fund is \$1614 75 which is loaned at 10 per cent.

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### TOWN OF BENTON.

Benton is a fractional Township and lies in the north-east corner of the County and State, and is bounded on the north by Wisconsin, on the east by Lake Michigan, on the south by Waukegan, and on the west by Newport.

There are no Lakes within this Township ; it is watered however by several small durable creeks or brooks, of pure water, made up from springs, which flow from the Prairies eastward, and empty into Lake Michigan.

There is a very beautiful Prairie in the north-west part of this Town, known as North Prairie. It is about 8 miles in circumference, and for fertility of soil, show of improvement, and beauty of scenery, is prob-

ably unsurpassed by any Prairie in the County, being undulating and beautifully skirted with fine groves of timber upon all sides.

The superior advantages of this Town renders it exceedingly attractive for agricultural pursuits, and in fact, probably, no other Town in the County, has its resources and advantages better developed in an agricultural point of view, than the Town of Benton. Taking every thing into consideration, it may perhaps justly be styled, the "*Garden*" of the County. Like Antioch and Avon, it is well supplied with timber; having a fair share of woodland in proportion to the Prairie.—The groves abound in various kinds of wild fruit, such as plums, cherries, goose-berries and the like; whilst the Prairies produce an abundant supply of strawberries and wild flowers.

Nelson Landon, Esq., was the first settler within the limits of this Town,—having "pitched his tent," in the fall of 1835 upon, or near the spot where he now reside. Mrs. Landon was the first white woman in this Town, and the only female who wintered in the Town in 1835 and '36.

Mr. Landon is said to be the wealthiest farmer that this Town at this time affords. His farm consists of about 1,300 acres of land in one body. It is stocked with 1,000 sheep, 100 head of cattle, and some of the finest horses in the western country. He has a dairy of about 60 cows, from which he has made, from 100 to 130 lbs. of cheese per day. His residence is about a mile and a half from Lake Michigan, and about midway between Waukegan and Kenosha.

Jeremiah Stowell, Hanson Minsky, H. J. Paddock, Philo Paddock, Jeremiah Porter, John R. Nichols, Chester Butterfield, Samuel P. Ransom, Rev. Salmon Stebbins, Edward

Putnam, sen., Oren Jerome, were also among the early settlers of this Town.

It may not be out of place here to remark, that the settlement of this Town having been commenced at an early day. The early settlers here experienced their share of the hardship and privations incident to the settlement of a new country. The writer is informed by one of them, that they paid during the fall and winter of 1835, for flour \$35 per barrel; for pork \$25 per barrel; for butter 50 cents per lb.; for potatoes \$3.50 per bushel, and for other articles of provisions, in proportion.

The first Town meeting in this Town, was held at the school house near B. T. Cook's. Chester Butterfield was chosen moderator, and A. Q. D. Leach, clerk. The first Town officers elected, were as follows: For Supervisor, H. L. Putnam; Town Clerk, A. Q. D. Leach; Assessor, Calvin Truesdell; Collector, C. Burrington; Commissioners of Highways, J. M. Moore, J. W. Bacon, C. Butler; Overseer of the Poor, Chester Butterfield; Justices of the Peace, E. H. Ellis, and L. W. Bull; Constables, A. G. Buell and P. H. Paddock. The number of votes cast at this Town meeting was 83.

The present Town officers are as follows: Supervisor, Chester Butterfield; Town Clerk, J. W. Yoak; Assessor, Calvin Truesdell; Collector, A. G. Buell; Commissioners of Highways, W. A. Eddy, A. Conly and J. Bull; Overseer of the Poor, Whiting Bacon; Justices of the Peace, E. H. Ellis and L. W. Bull; Constables, A. G. Buell and P. H. Paddock.

This Town is divided into 7 school districts. The amount of Township school fund is \$1,500. This Town affords one fine church and several good school houses; all tending

#### TOWN OF CUBA.

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to give evidence of the intelligence, and the enterprising spirit of the inhabitants.

Wellington is the only post office in this Town; it was established in May, 1851, and Peter Lown, Esq., appointed Postmaster,—who still remains in office.

The valuation of property in this Town, for the year 1850, including both real and personal, was 81,711.00. The amount of tax computed on the same, was 1,234.19.

#### TOWN OF CUBA.

This Town lies in the south-west corner of the County, and is bounded on the north by Wauconda, on the east by Els, on the south by Cook County, and on the west by McHenry County. It is one of those fractional Townships upon the west line of the County, being one only 4 miles in width, and 6 miles in length. It is watered by Fox River and Flint Creek, and several small rivulets, besides one or two small ponds. Flint Creek takes its name from one Amos Flint, one of the early settlers of this Township, who settled upon the banks of this stream.

This Township is esteemed by the inhabitants to be one of the best wheat Townships in the County; being mostly oak openings and timber land, rendering the soil of such a character as to prevent serious injury of the wheat from the severity of the winters. The inhabitants of this Town are at this time, generally in a prosperous and flourishing condition.

The Chicago and Fon Du Lac Rail Road passes through the southern part of this Town, which is now in progress, and will be crowded to a speedy completion. The beneficial results from this road, are already appreciated by the inhabitants of this Town.

Their peculiar location, has never, hitherto afforded them the benefits of a public thoroughfare through their midst; in consequence of which, they have been kept somewhat in the back ground in a business point of view, —keeping their lands at a low value, whilst the completion of this Rail Road cannot fail of doubling the value of their real estate.

The population of this Town, like that of the other Towns of the County, is made up from various portions of the civilized world; but as a community, the inhabitants are marked for their temperate and industrious habits, as well as for their perseverance and integrity.

Among the early settlers of this Town, were Olcott A. White, Joshua A. Hamdon, John Ellsworth, V. H. Freeman, Amos Flint, L. H. Bute, Robert Conmee, Robert Bennet, Jared Comstock and Freeman Martin.

The first Town meeting in this Town was held at the house of Noble R. Hayes. John J. Bullock was chosen moderator, and Noble R. Hays, clerk. The first set of Town officers were as follows: Supervisor, Philetus Beverly; Town clerk, Noble R. Hays; Assessor, Jacob McGilvra; Collector, Rob. Conmee; Overseer of the Poor Francis Kelsey; Commissioners of Highways, James Jones, Lewis H. Bute, Harvey Lambert; Constables, Chester Bennett and Wallace Bennett; Justices of the Peace, Innis Hollister and Robert Bennett.

The present Town officers are as follows: Supervisor, Lewis H. Bute; Town Clerk, John Sears; Assessor, Joshua Hamdon; Collector, John Jackson; Overseer of the Poor, Robert Bennett; Commissioners of Highways, Harvey Lambert, James Jones and John Wheeler; Justices of the Peace, Innis

#### TOWN OF DEERFIELD.

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Hollister and Robert Bennett; Constables, John Bennett and R. P. Buck. This Township has a school fund of \$3,839 43. The only Post office in this Town is Flint Creek,—J. J. Bullock, Postmaster.

The valuation of property in this Town for 1850, including both real and personal was \$44,756 00. The amount of tax computed thereon was \$672 73.

#### TOWN OF DEERFIELD.

Deerfield is a fractional Township and lies in the south-east corner of the County, and is bounded on the north by Shields, on the east by Lake Michigan, on the south by Cook County, and on the west by Vernon.

The first settlement of this Town was commenced in the spring of 1836, by Jacob Cadwell and his sons, Madison O., Philemon, Caleb, Hiram, and Edwin, who emigrated from Norfolk, in the State of New York, in the spring of 1835. Among the balance of the early settlers of this Town, were Horace Lamb, John Matthews, Lyman Wilmot, Benj. Marks, Robert Dygert, John Cochran, Michael Mehan, Magnus Tait, Anthony Sullivan, John King and Francis McGovern.

This Township is mostly timbered land, having no Prairies, except a small skirt of the Grand Prairie extending up a short distance into the south-west portion of it.

There are some two or three sluggish streams passing through this Town, flowing south-ward, and ultimately forming the North Branch of the Chicago River.

St. John's and Port Clinton, situated upon Lake Michigan, are within this Township.

The Village plot of St. John's was surveyed several years ago, but some litigation at

length arose between the proprietors, involving the title somewhat, which seemed to put an end to its prosperity, when Jacob C. Bloom, a gentleman of great energy and enterprise, made a purchase of land upon the Lake, a short distance south of St. John's, and laid out the Town of Port Clinton, which has become at this time one of the most promising Villages in the County.

The soil of this Township is of an excellent quality, and the farmers are generally in a prosperous and thriving condition. The population is made up, mostly by people from Ireland and Germany, with a small share of Americans.

The first Town meeting in this Town was held at the Green Bay house; a tavern, situated upon the old Military road, a short distance south of Port Clinton. Lyman Wilcox was chosen moderator, and Edwin Cadwell clerk. The following were the officers: Supervisor, Caleb Cadwell; Town Clerk, F. A. Goodbody; Assessor, John Millen; Collector, James Duffy; Overseer of the Poor, Philemon Cadwell; Commissioners of Highways, Benjamin Raudenbusch, Michael Mehan and Francis McGovern; Justices of the Peace, John Denker; Constable, H. J. Kollar. The number of votes cast for Town officers at this meeting was 71.

The Post offices in this Town are Deerfield and Port Clinton. Port Clinton was established in April 1850, and Jacob C. Bloom appointed Postmaster, who is still in office. The Post office at Deerfield was established May 4th, 1850, and Caleb Cadwell appointed Postmaster, who likewise continues in office.

The assessment value of property in this Town for 1850, including both real and per-

sonal was \$56,740 00. The amount of tax computed on the same for collection was \$753 40.

### TOWN OF ELA.

As we have already stated, this Town takes its name from the Hon. George Ela, one of its early settlers. It is bounded on the north by Freemont, on the east by Vernon, on the south by Cook County, and on the west by Cuba. It has but one Lake within its border, which is known as Lake Zurich, taking its name from a Lake of that name in Switzerland; which Lake lies in the western portion of the Township, and covers about 500 acres, and is said to be one of the most beautiful Lakes in the County.

This Town is also watered by the several branches of Indian Creek, which stream takes its rise mostly within its limits.

The Groves of this Town, are Long Grove-Deer Grove and Russel's Grove. The woodland and prairie of this Town is not so equally divided as in most of the other Towns of the County; there being by far a greater portion of the latter.

There are several large farms in this Town, and many independent farmers, who have commenced farming upon scientific principles.

The Prairies are dry and undulating and easy of cultivation.

A good share of the population is made up of Germans, who are every where characterized for their integrity and habits of industry.

This Town has one fine Church, located at Russel's Grove, belonging to the Methodist



denomination, and which would do credit to any of the older and more populous Towns of the Eastern States.

The settlement of the Town was commenced in the fall of 1835. Among the early settlers, were George Ela, John Robertson, S. A. Shephard, John E. Deil, George Cook, and Richard Archer.

The first Town meeting in Town, was held at the house of Charles S. Williams, at Russell's Grove. J. A. Halleck was chosen moderator, and Timothy Bartles, clerk. The following were the Town officers elected, Supervisor, Stephen Bennet; Town clerk, J. A. Halleck; Justices of the Peace, Elisha Lake and Oren Ott; Commissioners of Highways, E. Hubbard, A. Morse and C. R. Logun; Assessor, Henry Morse; Collector, Daniel Walters; Constables, Daniel Walters and George Proutz; Overseer of the Poor, John Clark. The number of votes cast at this Town meeting for Town officers, was 114.

This Town has two post offices,—Lake Zurich and Ela. The post office at Ela was established in 1844, under the name of Serryse, and George Ela appointed postmaster. The present postmaster is Daniel Potter. The Town is divided into 11 school districts, and has a school fund of \$2,600.

The assessment value of property in this Town for 1850, including both real and personal, was \$78,503 00. The amount of tax computed on the same was \$1,026 11.

#### **TOWN OF FREEMONT.**

Freemont is bounded on the north by Avon, on the east by Libertyville, on the south by Ela, and on the west by Wauconda. The settlement of this Town was commene

ced in 1836. Among the early settlers were Daniel Marsh, William Fenwick, Dr. Bryan, John G. Ragan, Hiram and Elisha Clark, Oliver and Stephen Paine, Nelson and Thos. Darling, Joseph and Samuel L. Wood, and and Thomas H. Payne.

The early history of this flourishing Township, if detailed in full, would no doubt, prove one of much interest to the reader, and the writer much regrets that he is unable to give as full an account of it as he would desire.

Fort Hill, a considerable sized mound, which rises in the Prairie, in the northern part of the Town, is a matter justly worthy of a passing notice. Thos. H. Payne, Joseph Wood and Joel H. Johnson, (now a resident of McHenry County,) were probably the first white persons, who ever set foot upon this spot of ground, which was in the month of January 1837, when they gave to it, at the suggestion of Mr. Payne, the name of Fort Hill; in consequence of its commanding position over the surrounding country.

The settlement which they commenced in the spring following, was for a long time thereafter known as the 'Fort Hill Settlement.' In the spring of 1838, a post office was established by the name of Fort Hill, about a mile south-west from the hill, at the house of Joseph Wood, who was appointed postmaster.

The eastern portion of this Township is mostly prairie, while the western portion, is mostly woodland and oak openings. There is however a fair share of woodland in proportion to the prairie. A portion of Diamond Lake is in the south-west corner of the Town, on section 36. On section 17 is

another small Lake or Pond, called Grass Lake, from which Squaw Creek takes its rise and runs north-westward into Fox River.

The inhabitants are mostly from the Eastern States, with a small share of Germans. The neat and tasty appearance of the farms in this Township affords the best evidence of perseverance and industry of its citizens.

The fruit nursery of Thomas H. Payne, Esq. is also a matter worthy of a moment's attention, and one which reflects much credit upon the flourishing Town of Freemont. It contains about 100,000 trees of different kinds and varieties from 1 to 7 years old. He has also about 30 acres of orcharding—composed mostly of bearing trees, and of the choicest varieties of grafted fruit. He has about 90 varieties of apples, about 20 of peaches, 16 of plums, 30 of cherries, 40 of pears, 15 of grapes and 5 of apricots. In his garden of flowers and shrubbery, he had the present year about 60 varieties of Dahlias.

The first Town meeting for this Township was held at the house of Peter C. Schenck. A. B. Partridge was chosen moderator and Christopher Secher, clerk. The following persons were elected Town officers: Hurlbut Swan: Supervisor; Christopher Secher, Town clerk, Justices of the peace, Sheldon Wood and Henry Ames; Commissioners of Highways, William Colvin, Joel B. Sherman and Thomas H. Payne; Constables, E. P. Penniman and D. Gibbons; Overseers of the Poor, A. B. Partridge; Collector, D. Gibbons.

The only post office in this Town is Gilmer, which was established in 1844, and John G. Ragan appointed postmaster. The present postmaster of which is Joel B. Thomas. A post office had some years prior been estab-

tished, near the present site of Gilmer, called Darlington, and Nelson Darling appointed postmaster, which however, from some cause or other was soon discontinued.

The Town is divided into 5 entire school districts and 3 fractional, which are attached to other Towns. The amount of the Township school fund is \$3,365 00, which is drawing interest at 10 per cent.

The valuation of property for 1850, including both real and personal, was \$73,150 00. The amount of tax computed thereon was \$920 41.

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#### TOWN OF GOODALE.

This is likewise one of those fractional Townships upon the western boundary of the County, being only 4 miles in width. It is bounded on the north by Anticoh, on the east by Avon, on the south by Wauconda, and on the west by McHenry Co. As we have before remarked, it takes its name from Deveraux Goodale, Esq., one of the early settlers. It is watered by Fish Lake, Wooster lake, Sullivan's lake, Mud lake, Duck lake, Long lake; part of the Pistakee Lakes, and some 2 or 3 smaller ponds not named; also by Squaw Creek which passes through the northern portion. It contains an area of about 15360 acres of which about one fourth part is covered with water. It has therefore the smallest population, and least wealth of any of the towns of the County.

Among the early settlers, were Harley Clark, Rufus Willard, Robert Stanley, Chester Hamilton, Deveraux and Henry Goodale, T. D. and D. C. Townsend and Timothy B. Titcomb.

The first house was erected by Harley Clark, near Fish lake in the summer of 1839.

The land was originally mostly timbered land, or woodland, with the exception of a small skirt of prairie, extending up into the south east corner of the Township. It is however well adapted to farming purposes, especially to the raising of stock: and affords many thriving and industrious farmers.

The Lake and McHenry Plank Road passes through the south east part of the Town, on Section 36.

The only Post Office in this Town is Fort Hill. Orren Marble Post master, which office as we have before remarked, was originally established in the Townships now known as Freemont.

The first Town meeting was held at the Goodale's Tavern, at which the following persons were elected Town officers: Chester Hamilton Supervisor; D. C. Townsend, Town clerk; Jehiel Campton, Assessor; Orren Marble, Collector; Cornelius Smith, Overseer of the poor; Calvia Clark, Rufus McWay, and Robert Stanley, Commissioners of Highways; Chester Hamilton and A. S. Maltby, Justices of the Peace; L. P. Barnes and Orren Marble Constables.

The valuation of property for 1850, including both real and personal, was \$33868. The amount of tax computed on the same, for collection was \$472. 56.

#### **TOWN OF LIBERTYVILLE.**

Libertyville is bounded upon the north by Warren, on the east by Shields, on the south by Vernon, and on the west by Freemont. It is one of the oldest settled Townships in the

County, and much of its early history has been already given under the head of General Observations.

Among its early settlers were Henry B. Steele, Tobias Wynkoop, A. B. Wynkoop, William, Robert and Christopher Irwin, Ransom Steele, William Crane, D. C. Steele, Hon. Horace Butler, Doct. J. H. Foster, Charles H. Bartlett, William and James Loyd, and E. Tingley.

The County seat of Lake County, as we have already remarked, was originally located at the village of Libertyville, and subsequently removed to its present site—which removal as might well be expected, somewhat retarded the progress of this beautiful village. Its enterprising inhabitants have, however, nevertheless, made it one of the most delightful villages in the County.—It contains at the present time some three or four hundred inhabitants—two or three stores a large and commodious Hotel, a steam flouring mill and saw mill, and above all, two fine churches, with which ornaments, by the way, our western villages are not frequently adorned, which fact alone will suffice for the character and reputation of the inhabitants, and the state of society without further comment. The village has also a Division of Sons of Temperance of about 25 numbers.

The first stock of Goods ever opened in Lake County was opened at this place by Hiram Kennicott in June 1836, in a building which stood near the present site of the District School house.

The prairie lands of this Township, which comprises about one half of its extent, from their long occupation, and the character of the occupants, are under an excellent state of

cultivation.—Improved farms meet with ready sales and probably command better prices than in any other part of the county.

The Township is watered by the Des Plains river, Rush lake and Wynkoop's creek. The Des Plains, flowing southward, through near the centre of the Town. The land upon the west is beautiful and undulating prairie, whilst that upon the east is mostly of the first quality of woodland.

The first Town meeting was held at Libertyville village, and the following persons were elected Town officers:—

William Crane, Supervisor; H. C. Hutchinson, Town clerk; John Locke, Assessor; E. H. Hall, E. H. Mason, and R. Drew, Commissioners of Highways; S. P. Statton, Overseers of the Poor; S. C. Brown, Constable and Collector; and D. C. Steele, and C. F. Apply Justices of the Peace. The number of votes cast was 125.

The only Post office in the Township is Libertyville, which was established in the winter of 1836 and '37, and Henry B. Steele, Esq., appointed Post master.

The Township is divided into seven School Districts, and has a school fund of \$1500.

The assessment valuation of property for the year 1850, including both real and personal was \$36899,00, and amount of tax computed upon the same was \$1178, 13.

### TOWN OF NEWPORT.

Newport is one of the most northern Townships of the County and is bounded on the north by Wisconsin, on the east by Benton, on the south by Warren, and on the west by Antioch.

Among the early settlers of this Township were Jacob Miller; Merrill Pearsons, Alvin Ames, James Melinda, John Reid, Asa Winter, Peter Cassidy, James Emery, Elijah Alvord.

Jacob Miller was the first claimant of Government land within its limits, who settled upon Millcreek, (so named by him) in the south part of the Township, in the summer or fall of 1835, and soon after erected at that point, a Saw and Grist mill, which was the first grist mill erected in the Co. of Lake. He was originally from Virginia, and immigrated with his family to this State and settled at Chicago a short time previous to the Black Hawk War, in which he engaged and served to its close. He was one of those noble hearted Virginians whom the later settlers of Illinois cannot but remember with the warmest feelings of gratitude and respect for their kindness and hospitality in the early settlement of the State.

Being of an adventurous spirit, and anxious to obtain means whereby he might add to his own comfort, and be of service to his fellow-creatures, he set out with his two eldest sons, in the spring of 1849, for California—"the land of Gold."

The fatigue and privations of a protracted journey, brought on disease, from which he died soon after reaching its termination.

This Township is watered by the Des Plaines, which passes through about the centre; and Mill creek which passes through the south western portion, and empties into the Des Plaines near the south line of the Township. There are some matters of antiquity here, which are probably worthy of a passing notice. Upon the west bank of the Des



Plains river, is a chain of those ancient mounds which are found in various portions of the Western country which extends from near the State line, southward some two or three miles.—Many of them have been dug into by the inhabitants, in which they invariably find human bones, almost entire, and of more than ordinary size. Upon the east bank of the river, a short distance below the State line, in the midst of a thicket of timber, is a peculiar spot which has evidently been the camping-ground of the Aborigines from time immemorial. The ground being at the present day strewn with the bones of animals and shells of turtles.

The writer is informed by Alvin Aines Esq that in the winter of 1840, in cutting and splitting a red oak tree, near this spot, he cut out an ounce leaden ball which was 70 grains from the surface ; having, as he thinks, been lodged there about the year 1770, and was probably discharged from some French or English musket.

The lands of this Township, are mostly woodlands and oak openings ; and are mostly occupied at the present time, by a class of thriving and industrious farmers.

In 1844, the Township was organised for School purposes and temporarily received the name of Sterling. A Post office was established upon the east side of the river in 1846, under the name of Mortimer and James Melinda appointed Post master ; which name was however subsequently changed to Newport to correspond with the present name of the township which is the only Post office in town.

The total amount of the township School fund is \$1080,70. The number of School

Districts is ten, in which schools are taught about one-half of the year

The first Town meeting was held at the house of John Turk. Titus D. Gail was chosen Moderator ; and Merrill Pearsons, clerk ; John Reid was elected Supervisor ; Caleb Cook, and J. Lowe Justices of the Peace ; A. J. Cummings, Constable ; B. F. Backus, Chester Ames and H. C. Biddlecome, Commissioners of Highways. The number of votes cast for town officers was 158.

The assessment value of property for the year 1850, including both real and personal, was \$94644. The amount of tax computed thereon for collection was \$1394.26.

#### TOWN OF SHIELDS.

This Township, as we have already remarked under the head of General Observations is so named in honor of General James Shields, now of the United States Senate. It is bounded upon the north by Waukegan, on the east by Lake Michigan, on the south by Deerfield, and on the west by Libertyville. Its settlement was commenced in the year 1836. Among the early settlers were Doct. Richard Murphy, William Dwyer, John Dwyer, Lawrence Carroll, Benjamin P. Swain, Isaac Hickox, Godfrey Dwelley, Michael Dulanty, Michael C. McGuire, Thomas Maguire, late Probate Justice of the Peace, and John Mullery.

The Chicago and Green Bay road, which was established by the United States in early days, and commonly known as the "Military road," passes through about the centre of the Township, upon which the first habitations were mostly erected.

The land upon the west side of this

road is principally prairie, whilst that upon the east side is a body of dense woodland.

The inhabitants are mostly natives of Ireland, and as a community are characterized for their perseverance and industry, as well as their integrity and promptness in all their dealings.

The Chicago and Milwaukee Lake Shore rail road will probably pass through this township near the route of the Military road, the completion of which will add greatly to the value of its woodlands.

The Post offices are Oak Hill and Emmet. Michael C. McGuire was the first post master of the former and Andrew Steele of the latter.

The first Town meeting was convened at the Tavern house of Mrs. Dwyer, at which Michael C. McGuire presided as Moderator, who was elected the first Supervisor of the Town.

The assessment value of property for the year 1850, including both real and personal, was \$44,300. The amount of tax computed on the same for collection was \$644.71.

#### TOWN OF VERNON.

The Township of Vernon is bounded upon the north by Libertyville, on the east by Deerfield, on the south by Cook County, and on the west by Elia. Its settlement was commenced simultaneously with that of Libertyville, sometime in the year 1834.

Among the early settlers were Captain Wright, A. Talcott, Clark Knights, William Easton, Seth Washburn, Esq., John Herrick, John and Robert Easton, Theron Parsons, Hiram Kennicott, Matthias Mason, Andrew S. Wells, Elisha Gridley, John A. Mills, Rufus Soules and Moses Putney.

This Township is watered by the Des Plains River and Indian Creek, which latter stream empties into the former upon section 23, near which point was once an Indian Village, which gave rise to the name of the creek upon which it was situated, (Indian Creek,) which village we believe was called by the Indians *Mellawa*; and was the home of the Indian Chief *Hafitz*, a Chief of the Potawatamie tribe, from whom the present delightful village of Half-Day derives its name. In the winter of 1836 and '37, the Half-Day Post Office was established by the Post Office Department. The prayer of the petitioners for this office, was, that it should be named *Hafitz* in honor of the Indian Chief before named; but it seems to have been the idea of the Department, not understanding the facts in the case that the petitioners desired the name of Half-Day, but that they had misspelled the name and therefore established the office under the name of Half-Day; which has always been a source of regret to such of the inhabitants as were acquainted with the circumstances, yet they have never applied for a correction of the error, which it seems to us that they certainly ought long since, to have done.

The first saw mill erected in the County of Lake was erected in this Township by Hiram Kennicott, Esq., upon the Des Plains River at the point now known as Vincent's mills.

The first school, for the instruction of youth ever taught in the County, was also taught in this Township at Half-Day, by John Easton in 1837.

The first stock of goods opened in this Township, was opened by John Easton in 1837, a man of excellent business habits and

qualifications, and who has, by close and continued application, and strict economy, accumulated a very comfortable fortune, and has set for the young men of Lake County, an example of enterprize well worthy of their imitation.

The Village of Half-Day, at the present time contains some 200 inhabitants, the progress of which has been materially aided, through the enterprize of Messrs. John Easton, Seth Washburn, Esq., and Theron Parsons. It supports two good stores, affords one of the best public houses in the western country, and all such mechanics as are needed in a country village, and like Libertyville, has been favorably remembered by the Church going community, who have erected there a very fine Church.

The post offices of the Township are Half-Day and Long Grove. The latter office was established on the first of April, 1847, under the name of Mutterschulz, and Michael Sigwald appointed postmaster, being in the midst of a german settlement, a german name for the post office, was very naturally selected. In December 1849 the name was changed to Long Grove, that being the name of the grove of timber, where it had been located. Fred'k A. Ormsby is the present postmaster.

Like Libertyville, the lands upon the west side of the Des Plains, which comprises about two-thirds of the extent of the Township, are principally prairie with the exception of some two or three scattering groves of timber; whilst those upon the east are heavily timbered.

Full one-third of the population of this Township is german, who are characterized as peaceable, quiet, and industrious citizens.

The first Town meeting was held at Half-Day Village; Matthias Mason presided as moderator; and Robert M. Hamilton acted as clerk. The following persons were elected as the first Town Officers: Captain James Moore, Supervisor; Orange Brace, Town Clerk; Philander Stewart, Justice of the Peace; Elisha Gridley, Assessor; H. H. Hawkes, Job W. Tripp and Irvin Ruth, Commissioners of Highways; J. W. Ayres, Constable and Collector; Robert Hamilton, Overseer of the Poor.

The assessment value of property in this Township for the year 1850, was 110,418.00; the amount of tax computed on the same was \$1,368.08.

#### TOWN OF WAUCONDA.

Wauconda is one of those fractional Townships upon the west line of the County. It is bounded upon the north by Goodale, on the east by Fremont, on the south by Cuba, and on the west by McHenry County.

Among the early settlers were Justice Bangs, Esq., Elisha Hubbard, Mark Bangs, Peter Mills, A. J. Seeber, D. H. Sherman, John C. Wooster, Daniel Martin, W. H. Hawkins, Thomas F. Slocum, Stephen Rice.

The Township is watered by Bangs' Lake, Slocums Lake, and two or three small ponds not named. Bangs' Lake takes its name from Justice Bangs, Esq., who was the first settler in its vicinity, and Slocum's Lake from Thomas F. Slocum, who was likewise an early settler in that vicinity. The lands were originally mostly woodlands and oak openings. It has, however, a small prairie, formerly known to some extent as Rice's Prairie, lying immediately south of the Village of Forks-ville, containing an area of about 600 acres.

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\* See Appendix.

From the abundant supply of timber in this Township, it has become quite thickly settled. The population being made up of an intelligent and industrious class of farmers. It has two very flourishing Villages—Wauconda and Forksville.—The former is beautifully located, in the south part of the Township, upon the western border of Bangs' Lake, on the Chicago and Jaynesville stage road. The latter is located in the north part of the Town, upon the route of the Lake and McHenry Plank Road. It is a Village of recent growth, and contains about 150 inhabitants. It affords two Stores, a commodious Hotel, and such Mechanics as are usually found in like country Villages.

Limestone are found in abundance in the vicinity, and the burning of lime at this place, has been a source of considerable profit to several individuals who have engaged in the business.

Wauconda is a Village of about 200 inhabitants, or upwards, and affords three good Stores, two Public Houses, and various Mechanics. Its location is delightful and as the country advances, will become one of the most delightful and pleasant Villages in the County.

It is indebted for its rapid progress to J. Bangs, Esq., its original proprietor.

A Division of Sons of Temperance has recently been organized here which speaks well for the sobriety and morality of its citizens.

The amount of school fund of this Township is \$2,224 10.

The first Town Meeting was convened at the Village of Wauconda. Jonathan Wood was chosen Moderator, and La Fayette Mills acted as Clerk. The following persons were elected as Town Officers : Peter Mills,

Supervisor ; La Fayette Mills, Town Clerk ; James S. Davis, Assessor ; E. L. Huson, Collector ; A. J. Seeber, Andrew Cook, and J. T. McKinney, Commissioners of Highways ; Hazard Green and J. H. Wesscher, Justice of the Peace ; E. L. Huson and Seth Hill, Constables.

The Assessment value of property for the year 1850, including both real and personal, was \$61,907 00. The amount of tax computed on the same was \$827 18.

### TOWN OF WARREN,

The Township of Warren is bounded upon the north by Newport, on the east by Waukegan, on the south by Libertyville, and on the west by Avon.

Among the early settlers were Samuel Brookes, Esq., Thomas McClure, Amos Bennett, L. W. Craig, Avery Esty, Moses Esty, William Lovejoy, Abram Marsh, William Ladd, Esq., George A. Drury, Willard Jones, Orange Smith, Orlin B. Smith, David Gilmore, and Amaziah Smith.

Its settlement was commenced in the year 1835, which was mostly in the vicinity of the Des Plaines River.

The natural enquiry, in tracing the early history of the western country, is, who was the first white inhabitants, speaking in contradistinction, of the Aborigines. The writer is informed, that this point as far as the Township of Warren is concerned has been well settled. Amos Bennett, a colored man, and who was we believe the first person who laid claim to, and improved any of the lands of the Township, declared on a certain occasion, while this matter was being discussed, forgetting his own color, and speaking in contradistinction of the Indian race, that he was



"the first *white man* that ever planted corn upon the O'Plain River, within the limits of Lake County."

The Township is watered by Gage's 1st Lake, and a part of the 2nd ; Mill Creek and the Des Plaines River. Upon Mill Creek there is an excellent Saw Mill and Grist Mill, owned by Moses Esty,—erected by Nathaniel Vose, Esq.

The lands of this Township, are composed of small prairies, interspersed with groves and belts of timber.

The principal thoroughfares, leading from Waukegan westward, south-westward, and north-westward, pass through this Township among which are the Chicago and Milwaukee, the Lake and McHenry Plank Road, and the Beloit road by the way of Antioch.

Ancient mounds, like those alluded to in the Township of Newport, are also found in this Township.

The post offices of the Township are Hartford and Wentworth, which former office was established in 1837, under the name of Abingdon, and Samuel Brookes appointed Postmaster. The Wentworth post office, so named in honor of the Hon. John Wentworth, for many years a Member of Congress from the old IVth Congressional District in this State, and recently re-elected in the present IInd District, was established April 1st, 1847, and Capt. Anson Kidder appointed Postmaster.

The first Town Meeting, was convened at the School House, near the O'Plain House. Nathaniel Vose, Esq., was chosen Moderator; and Benjamin Schaubert, Clerk. The following persons were elected the first Town Officers: Havelia Whitney, Supervisor; Benjamin Schaubert, Town Clerk; Nathaniel Vose,

Assessor ; George A. Drury, Overseer of the Poor ; Levi Stafford, Collector ; A. M. Pearsons, Alfred D. Whitmore, and Marcus S. Marsh, Commissioners of Highways ; Philip Blanchard and Havelia Whitney, Justices of the Peace.

The Township is divided into eight school districts, and has a school fund of \$1,688 02.

In point of wealth, the Township of Warren, ranks as the second Township in the County. The assessment value of property for the year 1850 including both real and personal \$114,989. The amount of tax computed on the same for collection was \$1,932 16.

### TOWN OF WAUKEGAN.

The Township of Waukegan, is bounded upon the north by Benton, on the east by Lake Michigan, on the south by Shields, and on the west by Warren. Much of the early history of this Township has already been incidentally given under the head of general observations ; therefore whatever remains to be added, will be rather of a statistical nature than otherwise.

Among the early settlers of this Township were Samuel Pellifant, Charles S. Cary, Jas. G. Cary, Elmsley Sunderlin, Peleg Sunderlin, Paul Kingston, James B. Gorton, Henry Knapp, Hezekiah Bryant, D. S. Dewey, Dr. David Cory, Burleigh Hunt, Daniel Walters, Cornelius Veiley, Edward Snyder, Erastus Blakesley, Thos. B. Benjamin, W. B. Benjamin, James McKay, Arthur Patterson, Capt. Morris Robinson, and D. O. Dickinson.

The delightful and flourishing City of Waukegan, (formerly called Little-Fort,) situated upon Lake Michigan, within this Township, was laid out in the spring of 1841, under the

direction of the County Commissioners, Nelson Landon, Thomas H. Payne and Charles H. Bartlett; the County having previously acquired a title to the land by virtue of pre-emption. At this period, the place afforded but one framed building, and some two or three log cabins. The following summer the building now occupied by J. Y. Cory & Co., as a Drygoods Store was erected by D. O. Dickinson, Esq., as well as a small Warehouse upon the Shore of the Lake, near the mouth of the River.

The commodious Hotel, now known as the "Villar House," was also erected the same season by James McKay, Esq., as well as the "Eagle Hotel," by Thos. B. Benjamin.

The unfortunate circumstance of the dispute of title, as well as the question of the legality of the location of the County Seat, soon arose, which seemed to cast a gloom over the prospects of the young Village of Little-Fort, while its warmest and most sanguine supporters, began almost to despair.

Many of them having invested here, nearly every thing they possessed in the world, in anticipation of a bright future, were most unwilling to abandon the enterprize upon which they had embarked, and at length with renewed energy and perseverance, resolved most firmly to stand by the "sinking ship." These men were such as James McKay, D.O. Dickinson, Dr. David Cory, D. S. Dewey, Arthur Patterson, and others.

A Bill had been introduced into the Legislature, for the purpose of settling the question of the location of the County Seat at this point, and likewise a Bill in Congress for the purpose of settling the question of title; both of which met with favor, and the anxiety and suspense of the good people of Little-Fort

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was at length put at rest. But the progress of the Town had been much retarded ; and comparatively little was accomplished by way of improvement until the year 1844, about which time full confidence seemed to be restored, and everything began to assume, in a measure, a prosperous appearance.

The following shows the population of the Town as taken at three different periods up to the close of the year 1844.

Population, Aug. 10th, 1842,	83
" Jan'y 1st, 1844,	150
" " 1st 1845,	409

The following were the imports and exports for the year 1844.

**I M P O R T S.**

Arrivals of Steamboats and other Lake Crafts,	151
Merch'dize landed on the pier, 202'ts	1877 lbs
Lumber, " "	832,772M ft
Shingles, " "	312M
" Bolts, " "	105c'ds.
Salt, " "	758bbls.
Flour, " "	850 "
Furniture, " "	43'ts 890 lbs.
Castings, " "	3'ts 400 lbs.
Pork & Beef, " "	145bbls.

**E X P O R T S.**

Wheat shipped from the pier,	66,000bshls
Oats, " "	200 "
Furs, " "	200 lbs.
Hides, " "	8,000 "
Pork, " "	15 bbls.

About 1,300 cords of wood was sold to Steamboats during the season.

During the year 1844 many essential improvements were made, and quite an influence began to spread abroad in favor of this yet young, but thriving Village.

Public roads had been opened into the country in various directions, and mail routes established in connexion with various points, including additional mail service between Chicago and Milwaukee, touching at this point—giving a daily mail.—Steamboats began also to touch regularly, which, hitherto, with one or two exceptions, had utterly refused to do so.—These favorable impressions extending abroad, caused a rapid increase of population and business.

The following statement shows the increase of business up to the year 1849.

## IMPORTS IN 1845.

Merchandize,	361 t's 281 lbs.
Lumber,	1,556,314 ft.
Shingles,	621 M.
" Bolts,	255 c'ds.
Salt,	971 bbls.
Flour,	662 "

## EXPORTS.

Wheat,	67,085 bshls.
Hides,	44,634 lbs.
Wool,	337 "
Steamboat Wood,	2,000 c'ds.

Arrivals of Steamboats, &c. 191.

Population of 1846, 759.

## IMPORTS.

Merchandize,	619 tons.
Lumber,	3,105,525 feet.
Shingles,	316 M.
" Bolts,	333 c'ds.
Salt,	700 bbls.
Flour,	553 "
Apples,	342 "
Machinery,	22,081 lbs.
Furniture,	1,959 bbls.
Wagons,	53

## TOWN OF WAUKEGAN.

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## E X P O R T S.

Wheat,	181,022 bshls.
Oats,	7,757 "
Corn,	1,856 "
Flax Seed,	794 "
Beans,	196 "
Barley,	1,000 "
Butter,	6,000 lbs.
Merchandize,	37,100 "
Shingles,	339 "
Steamboat wood,	3,000 "
Arrivals of Steamboats,	349

Population of 1847, 1,247.

## I M P O R T S.

Merchandize,	472 tons.
Lumber,	3,455,652 feet.
Shingles,	316 M.
" Bolts,	150 c'ds.
Salt,	1,624 bbls.
Flour,	193 "
Apples,	752 "
Water Lime,	92 "
Machinery,	21,386 lbs.
Furniture,	2,405 bbls.
Wagons,	61

## E X P O R T S.

Wheat,	167,878 bshls.
Oats,	7,634 "
Corn,	1,278 "
Beans,	106 "
Barley,	1,134 "
Butter,	6,282 lbs.
Wool,	5,605 "
Merchandize,	43,556 "
Pork,	73 bbls.
Hides,	784 lbs.
Steam Boat Wood,	5,458 c'ds.
Arrivals of Steamboats, &c.	459

Population of 1848, 2,025

## I M P O R T S.

Merchandize,	985 tons.
Lumber,	4,879,563 feet.
Shingles,	762 M.
" Bolts,	362 c'ds.
Tan Bark,	36 "
Salt,	1,974 bbl's
Flour,	284 "
Apples,	1,192 "
Water Lime,	162 "
Machinery,	53,804 lbs.
Ship Chandlery,	8,760 "
Furniture,	3,214 "
Fruit Trees,	873 b'dls.
Wagons,	78

## E X P O R T S.

Wheat,	217,848 bshls.
Oats,	13,683 "
Corn,	2,710 "
Barley,	430 "
Beans,	183 "
Potatoes,	5,465 "
Onions,	138 "
Merchandize,	486,750 lbs.
Butter,	13,604 "
Hams,	14,489 "
Lard,	5,761 "
Corn Meal,	15,192 "
Wool,	5,192 "
Pork,	511 bbls.
Eggs,	25 "
Hides,	948 lbs.
Steam Boat Wood,	3,784 c'ds.
Arrivals of Steamboats, &c	666

The Village of Little-Fort having at length swelled its population to about 2,500 inhabitants; upon application to the Legislature at its Session in 1849, it became incorporated

for municipal purposes, by an Act, Approved February 12th ; in which was inserted a provision, that at the first election for Town Officers, the inhabitants might change the name of the Town, to Waukegan ; which election was held on the second Monday in March, 1849, at which the following persons were elected as Officers :

President—D. O. Dickinson.

Trustees of First Ward—W. C. Tiffany and H. Hugunin.

Trustees of Second Ward—Jas. B. Gorton and A. Dougherty.

Trustees of Third Ward—E. S. L. Bachelder and Ransom Steele.

When by a unanimous vote of the inhabitants at the same election, the name of the Town was changed to *Waukegan*, it being the Indian word, in the Po'awotamie tongue for Little-Fort.

The following statement shows the Imports and Exports of Waukegan from 1850 to 1852 inclusive ; that of 1849 we are unable to give.

Population of 1850,	3,065.
I M P O R T S.	
Merchandize,	1,202 tons.
Lumber, (all kinds,)	5,500,000 feet.
Tan Bark,	175 tons.
Salt,	2,000 bbls.
Machinery,	57 tons.
Household Goods,	46 tons.
Apples.	1,475 bbls.
Whiskey,	487 "
Fruit Trees,	7,150
Stoves,	463
Wagons and Carriages,	35
Threshing Machines,	13
Candles,	225 bx's.
Coal,	150 tons.



## E X P O R T S.

Wheat,	144,243 bshls.
Oats,	3,675 "
Barley,	950 "
Hickory Nuts,	156 "
Timothy Seed,	145 "
Flour,	1,527 bbls.
Beef,	498 "
Pork,	150 "
Wool, (124 Bales,)	18,962 lbs.
Brooms,	5,000
Hides,	793
Wood,	3,440 c'ds.
Ship Knees,	200 tons.
Barns,	6 bbls.
Lard,	3 "

Arrivals of Steamboats, &amp;c., 1,095.

## I M P O R T S O F 1851.

Merchandise,	2,300 tons.
Household Furniture, (bbls. buld,)	710
Lumber,	4,593,000 feet.
Bath,	475,000 "
Shingles,	585,000
Salt,	2,804 bbls.
Apples,	809 "
Whiskey,	451 "
Flour,	371 "
Water Lime,	210 "
Vinegar,	89 "
Broom Corn,	108 bales
" Handles,	21,300
Wagons,	36

## E X P O R T S.

Wheat,	163,928 bshls.
Oats,	53,490 "
Corn,	28,874 "
Barley,	8,943 "
Flax Seed,	1,432 "
Grass Seed,	47 bbls.
Flour,	8,340 "
Pork,	250 "

**TOWN OF WAUKEGAN. 109**

Eggs,	62 "
Lard,	32 "
Butter,	220 fir'ks.
Wool,	35,800 lbs.
Brooms,	610 doz.
Dry Hides,	710 lbs.
Arrivals of Steamboats, &c.,	1,058.

Population of 1852, 4.560

**IMPORTS FOR 1852.**

Merchandise,	2,145 tons.
Salt,	3,350 bbls.
Water Lime,	430 "
Household Furniture, (bbls. bulk,,	1,485
Lumber,	3,248,338 feet.
Apples,	2,228 bbls.
Wagons,	83

**EXPORTS.**

Wheat,	235,879 bshls.
Oats,	193,638 "
Corn,	12,704 "
Barley,	20,153 "
Flax Seed,	3,028 "
Timothy Seed,	750 "
Flour,	5,752 bbls.
Merchandise, Furniture, &c.,	170 tons.
Pork,	665 bbls.
Hams,	195 c'ks.
Lard,	66 bbls.
Butter,	1,114 tubs.
Eggs,	225 bbls.
Wagons,	49
Reapers,	30
Ship Knees,	50 tons.
Hides,	530
Empty Barrels,	1,220
Wool,	44,149 lbs.
Flax Tow,	135,835 lbs.
Wood,	2,288 c'ds.

Arrivals of Steamboats, &c., 1,247, and 32,600 tonnage burthen employed.

The foregoing statements, will serve in a pretty full degree, to give the reader an idea

of the rapid growth of Waukegan, and of its still increasing importance. All of which cannot but prove most flattering to those enterprising spirits, who so zealously advocated its cause in early days.

We believe it is universally conceded, that for health and beauty of location, the City of Waukegan, has no rival upon the shores of Lake Michigan, and we confidently believe, that upon the completion of the Lake Shore Rail Road, locations for residences, will be sought for, here with an eagerness beyond the expectation of its most sanguine friends, and that very many business men of Chicago, will make their residences here,—especially in summer,—whilst their business will remain at Chicago.

Waukegan is favored with the following religious societies—Baptists, Rev. Coggshall, Pastor—Congregational, Rev. Richards, Pastor—Catholic, Rev. Coyle, Pastor—Episcopal, Rev. — Pastor—Methodist, Rev. Jones, Pastor—Methodist, (German) Rev. Roth, Pastor—all of which (except the last mentioned) have good and commodious houses of worship, which reflects great credit upon the inhabitants of the City.

Secret Orders.—One Masonic Lodge—one of I. O. of O. F. and an Encampment—Mechanics' Mutual Protection, No. 4—Division of Sons of Temperance—Daughters Union—and Section of Cadets.

An appropriation of \$15,000, has lately been made by the General Government, for the improvement of the Harbor here, which will be expended the ensuing season; all of which will tend greatly to add confidence, and give an impulse to business.

The first Town Meeting for the organization of the Township of Waukegan, was con-

**TOWN OF WAUKEGAN. 111**

vened at the Court House. Daniel Brewer presided as Moderator, and Nathaniel P. Dowst acted as Clerk. The following persons were chosen as Town Officers: James B. Gorton, Supervisor; George Wood, Town Clerk; S. H. Flinn, Assessor; Jeremiah Porter, Overseer of the Poor; William B. Benjamin, Jacob Montgomery and Eber Hinkston, Commissioners of Highways; John L. Turner, and Philip King, Justices of the Peace; L. Belshaw, and Harley Sage, Constables; and Harley Sage, Collector. The number of votes cast was 302. The Township has a school fund of \$3,600 40.

The assessment value of property for the year 1850, including both real and personal, was \$365,639. The amount of tax computed on the same for collection was \$5,756 25.

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**APPENDIX.**

After the appearance of our account of the Town of VERNON, in the "Waukegan Gazette," we received the following letter from *Seth Washburn, Esq.*, which shows that we were misinformed in relation to some items of interest, connected with the history of this Township. We have therefore, taken the liberty of inserting the letter at length, as the best method of setting the matter right.

HALF-DAY, ILL., FEB. 9th, 1853.

*E. M. Haines, Esq.*—DEAR SIR:—In looking over your Historical Record of the Town of Vernon, I perceive that you have been

*Seth Washburn*

misinformed in relation to the following items : First—In the list of names of the early settlers you have omitted some who were the first settlers and inserted others who came here after the year 1834 and 1835, and even up to 1838 and 1839. Second—In relation to the first school taught in this Town. Third—In relation to the first stock of goods opened in this Township. Again—In regard to the post-office ; it was established in August 1836, and was the first established on this road, north of Chicago, up to the State line. Hiram Kennicott opened a stock of goods in the year 1835, at Mettawa. John Easton commenced merchandizing here in the fall of 1838. The first school that was taught in this Township, was taught by Laura B. Sprague, in the year 1836 and '37. I will now give you a list of some of the early settlers, viz : Theron Parsons, Daniel Wright, Hiram Kennicott, and Mr. — Cooley of 1834 ; and James Chambers, Clark Knights, Alonzo Cook, Moody Rowd, Henry Walton, Jonathan Rice, Win. Easton, B. F. Washburn, J. M. Washburn, Asahel Talcott, Roswell Rose, with many more who might be mentioned, of 1835. I suppose that your Statistics of our Town will be kept as a County Record, and deeming it necessary that they should be corrected, I have with the most friendly feelings communicated the above.

Yours, with due respect ;

SETH WASHBURN.

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**N. C. GEER.**

Waukegan, March, 1853.

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**WAUKEGAN**











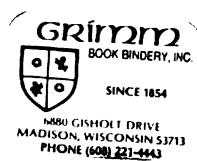


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